

Monday April 14 1975

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THE TIMES

Controlling pay without
a statutory policy:
Lord Taylor, page 12

Prime Minister of Cambodia says he will never surrender

There could be no question of the new military government Phnom Penh surrendering to the Cambodian insurgents, Long Boret, the Prime Minister, announced yesterday. The Government would, however, make every effort to bring about a ceasefire as a preliminary to negotiations.

Phnom Penh calls for ceasefire and talks with insurgents

Sydney Schanberg
New York Times

Phnom Penh, April 13 — A new Cambodian military government vowed today that it would refuse to surrender to the Communist-led insurgents who had captured the capital.

The government said it was determined to stay in the struggle alongside the army. Mr Long Boret, the Prime Minister, told the press that the government will be no surrender.

Mr Boret said that while continuing military struggle, the government would make every effort to persuade the other side to accept a ceasefire, followed by negotiations and national reconciliation.

Mr Boret said that the government would not accept a ceasefire unless it was a genuine one, and that it would not accept a ceasefire unless it was a genuine one.

deserted his post without notice.

Mr Boret said the American evacuation had satisfied the insurgents' objection to the United States presence here. "So now the other side should accept our offer for a ceasefire."

A reporter asked how he intended to deal with another of the insurgents' objections, namely their refusal to consider talking with certain members of the Government, such as his, whom they have branded as traitors who must be executed.

Mr Boret replied: "For myself and also for other leaders of the Government, we are ready to make any sacrifice, including resigning, but on one condition. The other side must first accept a ceasefire and negotiations."

The American Embassy in its final hours offered to take senior members of the Government out of the country, but, except for Mr Kioy, all the key people declined to go.

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Evacuation of the last 50 members of the American Embassy staff and more than 200 Cambodian staff workers and foreign correspondents was completed yesterday. They were flown by helicopters to a United States warship and will be taken to Thailand.



South Vietnamese helicopters bring supplies to troops making a stand near Xuan Loc, east of Saigon. Report, page 6.

Big airlift ferries American Embassy staff to safety

By Bruce Pelling

On board USS Okinawa

Gulf of Thailand, April 13

The arrival of the American Embassy staff from Phnom Penh on board the United States Navy helicopter carrier Okinawa was the final sign that the American evacuation from Cambodia was over, as was the five-year-old United States military commitment.

The sudden departure of the remaining diplomatic staff of 50 and more than 200 other Cambodian staff workers and foreign correspondents, was the inevitable response to a hopeless military situation.

Only two hours later, the operation was over. Twenty-four helicopters had ferried 276 people to the Okinawa and returned all the Marines to their ship.

It remained for the 150 Cambodians to acclimatize themselves to this strange new contraption taking them to Thailand. Many of the Cambodians spent the evening playing cards in their bunks, with the final irony that the stakes were the now worthless Cambodian banknotes they had brought with them.

Each evacuee was given two tags, one from the United States Embassy and the other given on

any change in Phnom Penh usual approach to a new day, save for the clustering of several hundred protective children around the Marines' defence perimeter.

Word had spread previously at the strongly guarded American Embassy that we were to be evacuated to the aircraft carrier.

While watching a particularly gruesome American film after dinner, one former maintenance worker fingered the three tags and turned to me saying: "Yesterday, I live in Phnom Penh. Today I live here."

For the moment, the people and their families will be joining several hundred other Cambodians living in tents at the American Air Force base at Utopia in Thailand.

Some are hoping to return to Phnom Penh when the situation is clearer and others want to take American citizenship and leave South-East Asia for ever.

But this will be open to them only after they go through endless processing and waiting.

Mr John Gunther Dean, the Ambassador, was one of the last to leave Phnom Penh and he strode on to the Okinawa clutching the embassy flag under his left arm. A little more than a year ago he was given the near impossible task of enforcing a political solution on to a war that had none of the ingredients necessary for such arrangements.

Rebuke for Ulster GOC likely over speech

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, the GOC in Ulster, is expected to be rebuked at Stormont Castle today by Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for his criticism on Saturday of the Government's policy of gradually ending detention in the province.

Government officials expressed concern yesterday that the General's remarks, of which Mr Rees had no advance warning, could damage the fragile ceasefire between the Army and the Provisional IRA and affect the outcome of the forthcoming Convention elections.

Mr James Wellbeloved, Labour MP for Belfast, Erith and Crayford, will try to raise the issue of Sir Frank's comments in the Commons today, our Political Staff writes.

Whether the Speaker allows his private notice question remains to be seen, but ministers are known to have been disquieted by Sir Frank's remarks.

On the Opposition side, Mr Airey Neave, the Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, is to consult colleagues to decide whether they should take any action.

In his speech, made at a St John Ambulance Brigade conference in Nottingham, the General gave a warning that further releases of suspected IRA men could lead to fresh troubles in Ulster. "About 200 have been freed and nearly all the remainder will probably be out in October," he said. "Then they will be in a position to start all over again."

The ceasefire, he added, had come at a time when the Army was within two months of defeating the IRA.

He also complained that the term "detention without trial" was misleading. Because of the high standard of evidence and the added safeguard of three judges, many of those arrested "go to the stage of detention," he said.

The Army had supported internment (or detention, as it became known) because of the difficulties of obtaining convictions in open court. "We are practically all the IRA, but getting convictions is our major problem," he said. "If you faced the prospect of being 'knee-capped', would you give evidence?"

He added that the Army had been told by intelligence sources and "other reliable sources" that the IRA were planning a ceasefire. But, given a restart of the campaign within the next month, we would be back to the position we were at at Christmas within five or six weeks.

As soon as it became clear that his speech was causing controversy, he issued a short written statement on Saturday night through his headquarters at Lisburn. It said: "I have heard reports of the talk I gave earlier today at a St John Ambulance conference. These are a distortion of context. I would like to make it quite clear that my reported comments were made in the context of a renewal of violence."

In a ceasefire situation, it is obviously necessary to take steps to bring about a situation of normality without lowering our guard. This policy has been clearly set out by the Secretary of State on a number of occasions.

Despite that attempt to reduce the controversy, many politicians will be pressing Mr Rees to go further than rebuking him today. They will want him to issue a statement confirming the Government's intention to carry through its policy.

Continued on page 2, col 5

EEC ministers work out aid scheme

An ambitious EEC aid programme for South Vietnam, including the communist-held areas, will be worked out in detail by the Foreign Ministers of the European Community at a two-day meeting beginning in Luxembourg today. Emergency provisions like cereals are expected to be sent. The week-end discussions among EEC ministers in Dublin have left British officials confident that a Nato summit will take place in Europe in late May or early June. Page 5

'Government at risk' over contract

Breaking the social contract could threaten the future of the Labour Government. Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday. He appealed to unions to stick to the guidelines agreed by the Trades Union Congress and make policy changes constitutionally. He also gave a warning that rebellion against TUC decisions would lead to chaos. Page 2

Dubcek message smuggled out

The ideas which guided Mr Alexander Dubcek in 1968 seem as alive as ever in a message from the deposed Czechoslovak leader smuggled out to the west. A letter to the Federal Assembly written in October, 1974, made a detailed attack on the present Husak regime. Page 6

Preparing for schools change

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, is reluctantly preparing to end its support for the independence of its two Tiffin Grammar Schools, our Education Correspondent writes in the first of a series of articles on local authorities who are contesting the change to comprehensive education. In return, the borough hopes to retain selection for a few more years. Page 4

Guns drawn by Turkish MPs

Violent scenes in the Turkish Parliament ended a prolonged deadlock of power and posed threats to the fragile coalition Government. Guns were drawn and several deputies physically assaulted. The vote, involving accusations of "buying" deputies, exposed deep divisions within the conservative camp. Page 6

Sixth rape case

A young woman who was bound, gagged and left naked after she had been raped at knife point in a bed-sitting room at Cambridge early yesterday, freed herself after four hours and told the police. It was the sixth attack by a rapist in the city since last October. Page 2

Rhodesia killings

Three white civilians have been killed by African guerrillas in north-west Rhodesia. Two were ambushed in their car and shot dead. Another man, as found beaten to death. Page 6

Robert Gittings; Stanley Reynolds on Thriller; Stanley Sadie on Eugene O'Neill.

Sport, pages 10 and 11.

Motor racing: Landa wins International Trophy at Silverstone.

Swimming: Britain wins six events in Stockholm. Racing: Report on Uganda. Threats by General Amin put new strains on the East African agreement. Page 6

Business News, pages 15-20.

Financial Editor: The debate on investment. When warrants expire. Consolidation phase for...

Business Features: Paying the price for Keynesian glory, by Professor A. A. Walters; Hugh Clayton writes on food retailers' margins. Ronald Vaux looks at the problems of Scottish steelmen.

Business Diary: Apple brothers seek formation of bigger European car groups.

Business Management: Louis Macbeth points out the importance of right comparisons when dealing with people. Training film is said a growth market, by Eynon Saur.

Home News, pages 2, 4, 12.

EEC Reference, pages 12, 14.

European News, pages 12, 14.

Overseas News, pages 12, 14.

Agriculture, pages 12, 14.

Appointments, pages 12, 14.

Arts, pages 12, 14.

Business, pages 12, 14.

Court, pages 12, 14.

Crossword, pages 12, 14.

Diary, pages 12, 14.

Engagements, pages 12, 14.

Features, pages 12, 14.

Letters, pages 12, 14.

Monday Book, pages 12, 14.

Obituary, pages 12, 14.

Parliament, pages 12, 14.

Premium Bonds, pages 12, 14.

Property, pages 12, 14.

Science, pages 12, 14.

Sport, pages 10, 11.

TV & Radio, pages 12, 14.

Theatres, etc, pages 12, 14.

25 Years Ago, pages 12, 14.

Universities, pages 12, 14.

Weather, pages 12, 14.

Wills, pages 12, 14.

Army kill Chad President in coup

From Paul Martin

Beirut, April 13

Chad, April 13 — President Tombalbaye died today in a coup d'etat when he was killed by his army.

The coup was announced by a radio broadcast from the capital, N'Djamena, which said that the President had been killed by his army.

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single party, the National Movement for a cultural and Social Revolution.

Colonel Salembani, commanding officer of the Chad Security Company, which was reported to have suffered heavy casualties in clashes with the Army during the coup battle, appeared on the radio to his troops to accept General Odingar's orders.

He made his appeal, he said, "in order to avoid a useless blood-bath."

The radio announced that General Felix Malloum, former Army Chief of Staff, had been released from prison. He had been held since June, 1973, on charges of plotting against the Government. General Diogo and Colonel Diogo were also released. They were arrested earlier this month on the personal orders of Mr Tombalbaye.

Agence France-Press.

Background to coup, page 6

President Tombalbaye, seen in Paris last November.

the dismissal of the Government and the National Assembly and a ban on the former ruling

17 die as Lebanese fight Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut street battle

From Paul Martin

Beirut, April 13

At least 17 people were killed and 30 wounded in a gun battle between Palestinian guerrillas and armed Phalangists outside the Maronite church in Beirut today. The Phalangists, who maintain their own militia, are opposed to the presence of armed Palestinian forces in Lebanon and have clashed with them on numerous occasions in the past.

Both sides accused the other of starting today's fighting. The Phalangists said their militiamen were guarding the church, where their leader, Shafiq Marwan, was attending Mass. The guerrillas came driving down the main street in Jeeps and opened fire with automatic rifles.

The Palestinians, on the other

hand, said the Phalangists had ambushed a bus, killing 14 guerrillas and wounding 20 more. "It was a massacre," one guerrilla leader said tonight. The Phalangists reported three of their men killed and several wounded.

According to eyewitnesses the guerrillas tried to pass the church in a convoy of Jeeps. The Phalangists, who were guarding traffic, seized a guerrilla Jeep and a scuffle ensued. About an hour later guerrilla reinforcements arrived in a bus. By this time Phalangist militiamen had taken up advantageous positions around the church in buildings and on rooftops. Most of the guerrilla dead were caught in the heavy fire with which they raked the bus.

Internal tensions were

heightened in Beirut this week when unknown armed elements tried unsuccessfully to kidnap Mr Amin Gemayel, the son of the President. Efforts were made to hush up the affair lest it cause internal strife. However, when the story did get out, Shaikh Pierre said that had the plot succeeded it would have unleashed a reaction that he would not have been able to control.

Damascus, April 13 — Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, asked the Arab nations tonight to exert pressure on Lebanon to punish the Phalangist Party. In a telegram to Arab heads of state he said Phalangists had ambushed a civilian bus, killing 26 of its passengers, including children, women and men. —UPI

Westminster expects disinflationary Budget tomorrow

By Wood

Editor

politicians at Westminster expect that the Budget will be disinflationary, although it is a bitter party argument how he should achieve it.

Conservative broadly hope realistic cuts in public spending. Labour backbenchers are outraged if the Chancellor does not prefer increased cuts, especially on so-called "wasteful" items.

The Tribune group, vying the line of the trade union leaders, will press for a cut in public spending, a trend in unemployment.

politicians will be surprised if Mr Healey increases cuts in public spending, the cost of motoring. A 10 to 15 per cent increase in value

added tax, weighing against luxury tax, is likely to be granted, if only because it is known that senior Inland Revenue officials have been attending instructional courses on the complications.

Allowing for a Treasury bias against luxuries, some politicians expect the Budget judgment for the present to be broadly neutral. Mr Healey has committed himself repeatedly, at home and abroad, to the argument that now that a cyclical recession is developing, it is important to provide a stimulus to international trade.

But at a time of acute wage inflation at home, the argument must be amended more for foreign consumption than as a guide to domestic economic management. Up to an arguable and undefined point, Mr

Healey clearly cannot want tomorrow to create a level of full employment that encourages trade unions to drive up wages and make British exports uncompetitive.

What the social contract has failed to do, economic realities must be allowed to do. But it has to be remembered that the Commons Select Committee on Public Expenditure found that even the unemployed now receive three quarters of the wage they would be entitled to in work.

On the whole, it is reasonable to assume that public spending will have to be cut, either overtly in the Budget or in its aftermath, and the cuts will be politically balanced by fiercer indirect taxation on some goods that have little effect on cost-of-living statistics.

Mr Healey's difficulty is that he has, at least to make the

attempt to produce proposals that will be acceptable to Tribunes and trade union leaders who are increasingly conscious of their power and authority.

The Budget dilemma is no less acute for Conservatives. Under new leadership, the Opposition has to decide a short notice what view to take of Mr Healey's measures. The party line will be set tomorrow night, when Mr Thatcher makes a brief comment on Mr Healey's main proposals. Sir Geoffrey Howe, as shadow Chancellor, will not develop the theme in full until Wednesday afternoon.

The Conservative rank and file or a large part of it, expects Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues to prove their mettle by some frank speaking about the United Kingdom's economic needs, with much emphasis on belt-tightening by the Govern-

ment and local authorities. Yet it is still too early for Opposition leaders to have a strategy: they have only tactics until the new management has had time to make up its mind.

While Opposition leaders find their orientation and settle on distinctive economic policies, as one Conservative speech after another nowadays illustrates, Mrs Thatcher's rank and file grow more troubled. That was the background for two important weekend speeches made by Lord Harnar-Nicholls and Mr Peter Walker, the former Conservative minister whom Mrs Thatcher sent to the back benches.

A "super-select committee" chaired by Mr Wilson should be set up to recommend how Britain could escape from perpetual crisis and continuing

Continued on page 2, col 3

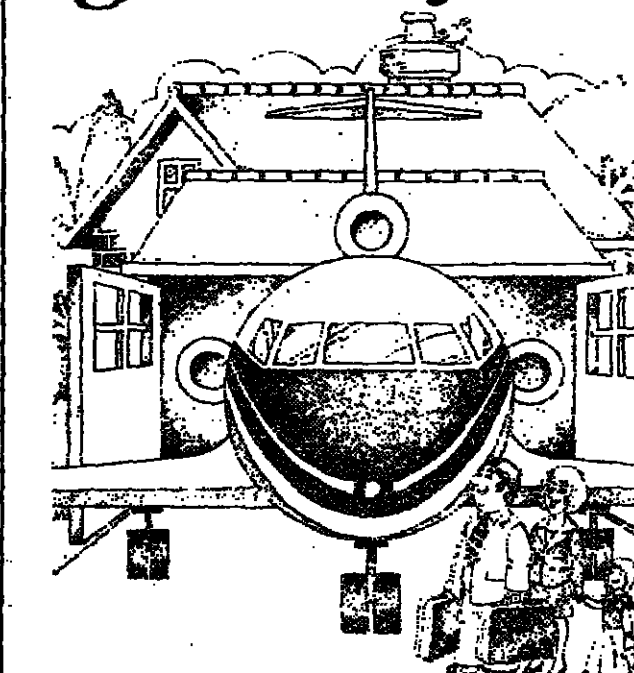
Irish policeman sought over £200,000 plot

Scotland Yard is seeking the extradition of a senior police officer from the Irish Republic in connexion with an alleged £200,000 plot to swindle English bookmakers with bets on Gay Futura, the racehorse. Magistrates at Ulverston, Cumbria, have issued a warrant.

Two other men are named in the several Irishmen are already on bail, charged with conspiracy. The warrant is understood to have been sent to the Irish director of prosecutions in Dublin.

If the Irish legal authorities find the extradition application is in order the men will probably be arrested and appear in court before an Irish court. They may contest the application.

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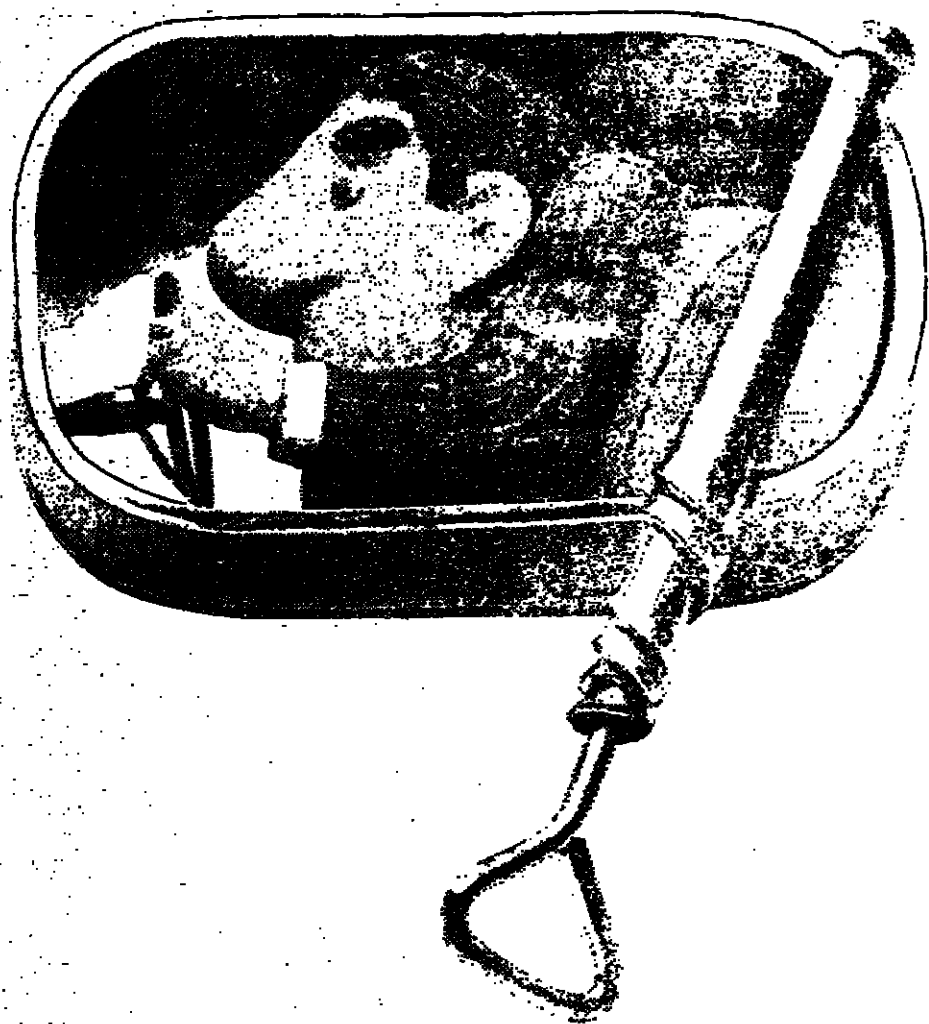
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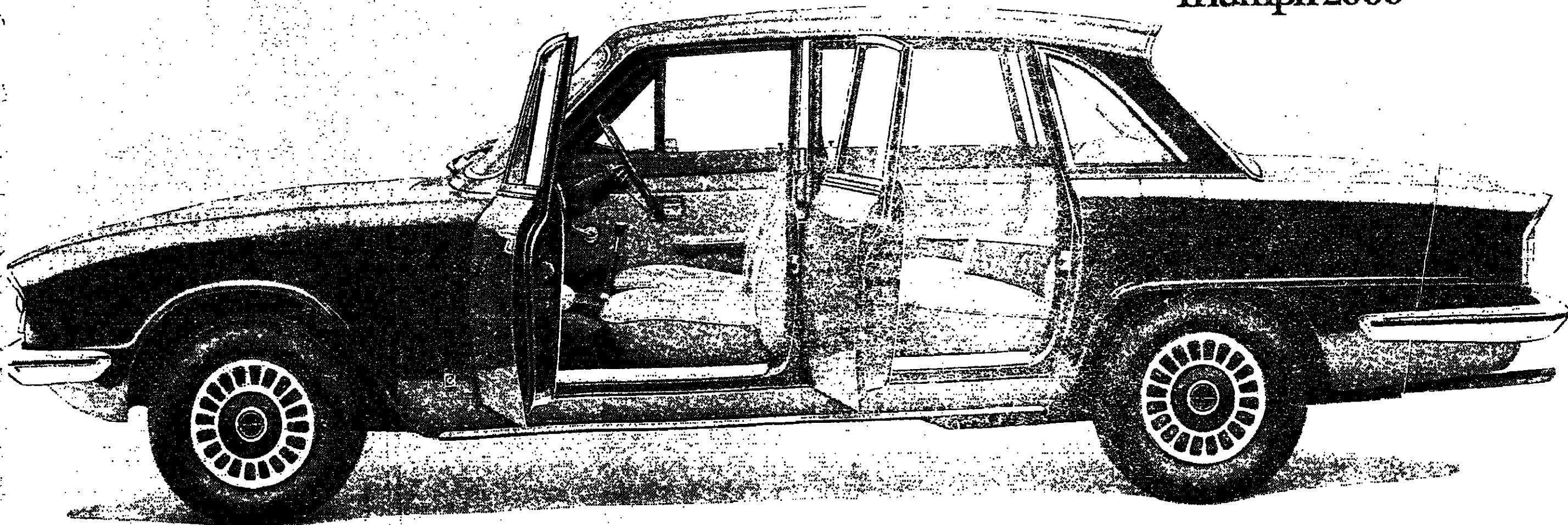
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The debate on investment

In defending self-regulation in the securities market here last Monday, I added that self-regulation looked the most desirable system while capital markets retained their present form. The best form for the capital market is of course a subject of fairly constant debate, and that debate looks like being a significant one over the coming months.

As I also pointed out, the City has not given a particularly good account of itself in these debates to date, so it should be heartened to learn that someone, or rather some body, namely the National Economic Development Office, is prepared to arbitrate on the City's behalf in wider councils.

The need for such a neutral arbiter is obvious at a time when there has been a big shift of political power to the Left and when the degree of mutual suspicion and misunderstanding between this political wing and the City renders meaningful communication almost impossible.

Until now the only wider counsel where the two sides can formally meet has been the National Economic Development Council where Mr Dick Lloyd, chief executive of Williams & Glyn's, the City's representative, sits alongside Mr Len Murray of the TUC as well as the Chancellor and the CBI.

At its last three meetings the NEDC has discussed industrial investment and broadened that to discussing what mechanism is needed to bring about a shift in national resources into such investment.

Under the enlightened offices of Sir Ronald McNosh, director general of NEDC, all sides appear to have come nearer agreement on the need for such a shift, if not yet on the precise means of achieving it.

The NEDC has been so encouraged by the progress to date that it would not be surprising to see the idea of a permanent national investment council being canvassed soon both in the City and among the trade unions, and naturally in Government too.

This would be rather along the lines of the committee set up within the French Commissariat du Plan to coordinate industrial investment within their national plan.

Both the TUC and the "Social Democrat" Ministers within the Labour government appear to be greatly enamoured of French-style industrial dirigisme just now, seeing it as an effective way of identifying national objectives and ensuring that the resources are made available to meet them.

This may be anathema to the more laissez-faire elements in the City, but in the present political climate perhaps they could see this fairly subtle form of dirigisme as more desirable than other cruder forms of state control.

The TUC, if not the more left wing elements within the union movement and within the Labour Party, has accepted in principle that the financial sector has at least an equally important role to play as the National Enterprise Board in stimulating industrial investment in this country.

Mr Murray is said to have emphasized that, in looking at the role of existing capital market institutions in this country the unions are not necessarily "putting them in the dock".

Again this may rankle, to put it mildly, with those who believe in the City's right to authority to finance industrial investment. But if these things must be questioned they must also be well defended if they are to survive. The NEDC is by this token the most important national forum at present.

It seems that all parties to the NEDC are now agreed that inflation is the biggest obstacle in the way of increased industrial investment in Britain, though they do not yet agree on what is the main cause of that inflation.

Those perhaps in the City who would say "enough said" at this point, and argue that once the prospect of a realistic return on capital returns investment will follow, must remember that Britain's investment record was comparatively poor

even before the days of super-inflation.

So the national debate will go wider on how more resources can best be channelled into industry, and here the City can take comfort from the fact that the francophiles in this debate are not necessarily set on establishing a French-style chain of national savings banks (Caisse d'Epargne) channelling the national savings into industry via a central government controlled body (Caisse du Depot).

The continuing role of existing financial institutions like insurance companies and pension funds seems to be tacitly accepted within NEDC, if not perhaps to quite the same extent as within the parties in the NEDC, and it is recognized that to attempt any overall direction of their investment policies might prejudice the interests of their investors.

Nevertheless, there is talk within NEDC—albeit rather nebulous—of these institutions adopting a "consortium" approach to industrial investment.

There is also some recognition of the importance of the role of the equity markets in attracting national savings into industry.

Perhaps most encouraging of all for the City, there is now talk of the idea that strap duty and the tax treatment of industrial bonds should be modified so as to encourage more investment.

Government has traditionally accorded itself too high a priority in Britain to attract savings to finance its own expenditure and there has been too much of a bias to other forms of savings such as housing finance, says NEDC. Might we then expect that the Chancellor, one of NEDC's most important members, will pay some recognition to these points in his Budget tomorrow?

NEDC's discussion paper on industrial investment says that if the banks (clearers and others) are to provide more long-term finance, they may need to go more actively for longer term deposits and "may need assistance by some forms of savings incentive".

This would imply perhaps some extension of FTT's activities. Admittedly, the paper also says that market forces alone are unlikely to produce the structural changes required by the industrial sector, and the Government will have a "direct role" to play in financing investment through the Industry Act and the NEB.

But this looks like a sop to a left wing which hopefully is assuming rather more complex in its thinking of the relationship between the City and industry.

Warrants

When they expire

A largish turnover during the last couple of weeks in Burmah warrants, due to expire in June and apparently worthless, seems to be based on vague hopes that the company will consider extending the life of the warrants for a further period in view of the heavily depressed level of the share price. Against a market price of 34p—down 2p to a new "low" of 34p on Friday—Burmah shares would need to reach 40p before an exercise of the warrants became worthwhile, or about 160p if investors still holding the loan stock, to which the warrants were attached, opted for surrendering 14 nominal of that stock—currently valued at around 40p—in return for ordinary shares.

While we should know a little more about Burmah's situation with the publication of the group's interim statement this week, any possibility of the warrants acquiring a meaningful value in the interim is clearly out of the question. And even though there are suggestions that a number of companies have been considering what to do about warrants that expect value in the interim, Burmah, ironically one of the first British groups to issue warrants, does not look a promising candidate for providing war-

rant holders with an extended lease of life.

A number of United States companies whose warrants have expired at an unfavourable stock market moment have decided to extend the rights, but there is, under North American tax laws, a powerful incentive for them to do so.

From a corporate financing point of view there could be a marginal case for extension, but extension was in fact likely to lead to subscription for new shares and the injection of fresh capital. In the case of Burmah, however, warrant holders can opt merely to surrender their loan stock in return for new shares. Moreover, even when a warrant issue is purely a deferred rights, its use as a capital raising tool is strictly limited both by the Stock Exchange rules on dilution (not more than 10 per cent) and by the ease with which larger sums can be obtained at present through a straightforward equity issue.

The single most powerful deterrent to corporations extending their warrants is the fact that it could be construed to prejudice the interests of ordinary shareholders, particularly if the warrant rights were amended.

In the case of Burmah this has been justified, since recipients of loan stock and warrants issue have fared rather less badly than equity holders.

Gold

A period of consolidation

The fact that the gold price has fallen by just over a sixth from its peak this year is not in itself any great surprise. The price was due for some kind of reaction at some stage and the world background over the first quarter of the year hardly one to encourage people to continue piling into gold. First, there was the powerful anti-gold campaign launched by the United States authorities ahead of the first American auction in January. Whether or not they played any part in the modest response to the auction is hard to tell, but the result itself clearly took much of the steam out of the market. On top of that there were signs that the industrialized nations were starting to adjust their policies to the fact that the problems of financing oil and petrodollar problems, while falling interest rates and rapidly rising share prices obviously started to attract major investors away from the gold market and back into the stock market. If there has been any surprise, it is probably that the bullion price held so steadily above the \$170 mark. In short, it looks as if there is reasonably good support for the price at around this level.

On the industrial and commercial side, as opposed to the investment funds, demand for gold has been depressed by the decline, helped by the reduction in the platinum and palladium prices where end uses are often interchangeable, but jewelry offtake remains buoyant worldwide. The view in Johannesburg is that, while South African production could be around 800 tonnes this year—Soviet output is around 370 tonnes—the total market's requirement will significantly exceed this combined figure.

Production by other producing countries is marginal in this context, with Canada, the third largest, turning out no more than 60 tonnes.

Given this kind of demand/supply situation, the price is expected to move ahead, but only gradually and with some of the gyrations seen in 1974.

As far as Kruggerands go, existing holders should probably stay with their investments for the time being, while those still interested in gold as a potential investment should have been noting the recent low level of the coin's premium over the gold price. What, if anything, the Chancellor proposes to do about the coins as an investment should be clearer by tomorrow night.

Swedish voice

While Britain moves towards referendum day on June 3, businessmen among our old EFTA partners in Sweden appear confident. British should, and will stay in the Community. Business leaders point out that a decision to withdraw could pose problems for Britain's free trade arrangements in the EFTA countries such as Sweden, which have separate arrangements with the EEC.

William Faux of the Federation of Swedish Industries (which is very pally with our own pro-Market CBI) argues that the act of leaving the EEC would call for great negotiating subtlety and would also cause great confusion for European trade.

Faux says: "Leading British politicians consider that they have the right to refuse to answer hypothetical ques-

tion. However, one must hope that the leading British anti-market leaders in the TUC and in the parties together now set out how they propose to act if they win. In 1975 no one can derive comfort from the old newspaper headline "Storm in Channel—Continued isolated".

Some Swedish manufacturers fear that if the United Kingdom leaves the EEC they may lose some of the substantial trading advantages Sweden was granted as part of their negotiations. A number of Swedish products get special concessions because they contain components made in Britain, which entitles them to a preferential treatment for containing parts made inside the community.

Unemployment

Britain was the first country to fashion her economic policy on thorough-going Keynesian lines from the Budget of 1941 onwards. Yet Britain's economic performance, whether judged in terms of inflation or improvement in standards of material well-being, has been worse than any other industrialized nation.

But surely, it may be urged, Keynesian policies have been largely responsible for the fact that there has been no mass unemployment in Britain during the post-war era. Such a claim does not stand up to even the most casual examination of the facts.

Mass unemployment has been avoided in the United States and yet, certainly until the mid 1960s, United States economic policy was not conducted on Keynesian principles. Japan and Germany, both advanced economies, have enjoyed an unprecedented level of employment yet they have managed their economies on orthodox principles of balanced budgets and sound finance.

High levels of employment can be maintained without the many changes in taxes and

government spending and the on-off restrictions and controls which have been so upsetting a feature of life in Britain in the post-war years.

At the very minimum, however, Keynes taught the world that it was silly to pursue deflationary and prolonged deflationary policies—such as the United States monetary authorities followed in the early 1930s and such as those which Britain followed in the 1920s in her over-valuation of the pound in 1925. Now no central bank or politician would dare doggedly to pursue such a disastrously deflationary and contractionary policy. We are all expansionists now!

Politicians have learnt that traditional sacred cows need no longer be venerated; thus more-or-less balanced budgets have yielded to huge deficits, spending financed by creating money or by borrowing from foreigners, and the convertibility of sterling at a fixed parity has given way to flexible exchange rates.

In the permissive 60s politicians, aided and abetted by what are curiously called "progressive economists", took to the monetary drug culture. They discovered that a monetary and budgetary expansion will give a boom in real output and employment. True it is only a temporary boom and the increase in employment is only transitory; soon the rate of growth of output will fall back again and the level of unemployment will inevitably rise even above its previous high.

Euphoria

But during this period of euphoria—which may last as long as two years or so—the economy looks set fair for everlastingly to boom and high employment at no increase in the rate of inflation. The increased rate of growth of money does not make itself felt in the form of an increase in the rate of inflation for some two to four years . . . that is to say well

beyond the hazy horizon of politicians.

But then both increased inflation, increased unemployment, and even declining real output come jointly to plague society—as we find in Britain today. The remedy proposed by many is another bout of expansion; that is, more of the same drug to fight unemployment. The unfortunate side effect of more inflation should be controlled directly by limiting wage awards and regulating price increases.

Furthermore the other distressing effects of expansionism on the balance of payments—the massive £4,000m deficit on the current account and the rapid accumulation of debt to foreigners—have been solved by quota restrictions on essential imports as recently suggested by the New Cambridge School.

Liberty

This clever device will, it is argued, avoid the unfortunate inflationary effects of devaluation. True there will be some additional bureaucratic regulation with price control and rationing of scarce quotas, but nothing beyond the ingenuity of skilful economic management.

The economists' promised land of high employment, stable prices and rapid growth can be attained only by adopting the most stringent limitations on liberty—on our right to contract freely with one another, to sell for the highest price and buy at the lowest.

The promised land is now one of the queue and the ration book, the black market and the political fixer, where thrift and enterprise yield little compared with political pull and know-how. Picture of the workings of a controlled economy would be denied by many, perhaps most, well-meaning protagonists of legal wage-price controls and import quotas. Indeed the nation can rely not on the law and the courts but on that

fund of good will and sense of fair play which have been characteristic of British society through the years—rather as though the game were being played by gentlemen who really know how to behave if only they are given a suitable lead. Alas, the leisured gentlemen are dead; there are only players scrambling for survival.

Monetarist

But what would Keynes have done over these years? Would he have countenanced so much that has been done in his name? Certainly we know that he would not have been so negligent about the inflationary effects of the policies of governments since the Second World War. Keynes was a monetarist; he believed the money supply mattered. He had served a long apprenticeship to understand the great classical masters of monetary theory and to apply their modes of thought.

Keynes discovered some important lacunae of the traditional quantity theory of money—especially in predicting the short run dynamic effects on real output and employment. But the theory needed adapting and extending; it did not deserve to be consigned to the crumpled pages of the past. Keynes's disciples to be its appropriate home.

Today again the world pays dearly for losing sight of that simple but fundamental verity of economics—values depend on relative scarcity. If money is made more plentiful than its value will fall. It seems to me inconceivable that Keynes with his firm grasp of fundamentals would have fallen into the sophisticated folly of his disciples.

Keynes would also surely have avoided the perfectionism in trying to reduce unemployment to levels which by pre-war standards would have been regarded as absurdly low and indeed too low to enable the economy to redeploy resources efficiently. The infla-

tionary cost of securing such small transitional increases in employment—of dubious value in any case—would have appalled Keynes.

As we know from the collected Keynesiana, when he was asked what should be done during the rapid post-war inflation in 1920 he was quick to argue that a sharp contraction was required. Bankruptcies and hardship there must be, but it would soon be over and the normal pattern would once more emerge. Once an inflation of 10 or 20 per cent gets under way there is bound to be dislocation and distress in trying to arrest it.

To imagine that such hardships can be avoided by gimmicks, clever manipulation of taxes, incomes-price controls, or any other box of tricks from the economist's locker is simply self-delusion, or at worst deception.

Inevitable

Of course the inevitable question must be put—suppose Keynes found himself at the elbow of the Chancellor in 1975, what would he recommend? And the inevitable answer . . . something very clever, but which does not know what? And this is, alas, the ultimate failure of the economics of Keynesianism. The gap between promise and performance, between expectation and realization, grows wider and becomes unbridgeable.

The mid-1970s will be the years of the great inflation of the price level and, one hopes, the great deflation of expectations. And then even economists may learn to respect their promises to what they reasonably expect to deliver.

A. A. Walters

Professor A. A. Walters is Cassel Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics.

Essays on John Maynard Keynes, edited by Nils Keynes, Cambridge University Press, £5.90.

Scottish steelmen pin hopes on talks

The Scottish TUC beat the Government and the British Steel Corporation in the week-end talks to prevent 2,500 steel workers from being thrown into the persistently hot crucible of unemployment. And the talks taking place in London on Thursday and Friday have much hope pinned on them even though the price involves a tough battle behind different views.

Mr Benn's stay of execution for thousands of steel jobs south of the border is a hopeful precedent, but there will be little room for manoeuvre if the Government continues to insist that making steel must be a profitable and efficient enterprise, and there is nothing the Steel Corporation can do to achieve that goal without severe rationalization of the aged Scottish steelworks.

The talks will lead inevitably to the loss of at least 4,700 jobs. The new steel plants and processes will create work for some 2,300 but for those individuals trapped in the "net job loss" column there is the unhappy prospect of unemployment in a region which already has an unfavourable share of dole queues and recession.

The Government may hope that the timing of the closures together with early retirements and voluntary redundancies will ease the social cost of improving the industry in Scotland over the next three years. A controlled trickle of men into retraining centres or onto the employment market would be less damaging politically but the unions point out that the gross figure for lost jobs could be over 5,000. They believe it is also essential that work should be provided for the thousands outside the steel industry before the closures occur.

After his recent summit with the Scottish TUC, Mr Wilson emphasized that Scotland would be producing more steel not less when the rationalization was completed. He did not mention that this greater production will be achieved by fewer people. But the Government is alert to the political consequences of

swelling further the unemployment figures which traditionally ally voters with the Labour Party, but where the Scottish National Party now lies second in a significant number of seats.

The steel making area of Motherwell and Wishaw has pointed out the political dangers in advance of demand. Any significant growth of unemployment in the steel industry in the present political climate could gift-wrap West Central Scotland for the SNP, they say.

Many Labour MPs in Scotland believe the way to large scale closures should be strongly resisted by alternative work before the old plant is closed down. It also seems likely that the first major job of the Scottish Development Agency will be to organize a new centre for industrial growth in West central Scotland where advanced factories and new industry would absorb the bulk of any unemployment in steel.

This is not a consideration which can weigh in the economic calculations of BSC as they attempt to produce steel efficiently and competitively. They aim to change from the open hearth furnaces of a traditional jobbing industry supplying a wide range of steel products to a much more rational production structure.

A £66m development at Ravenscroft steel mill will produce double output to more than 3.2 million tonnes a year while Hunterston on the Clyde coast remains the surest site for major revitalization of Scottish steel making.

Mr Wilson's statement for this week's talks put the growth of steel production in Scotland at 4.5 million tonnes metric a year by the mid 1980s. This may be satisfactory, in a United Kingdom context, but it is a pity that the steel industry has been so far from the benefit of Scotland that the target is too low.

Ronald Faux

Will Mrs Williams tamper with the food retailers margins?

Very little has been heard of the "voluntary" agreement between food retailers and Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection, since she announced its birth in the Commons last June. But it has been there all the time, practically invisible apart from some deep price cuts on bread.

The agreement said that food retailers would concentrate the proceeds from the sale of a tenth of their profit ceilings, ordered more than a year ago, on price cuts to certain basic groceries. It always looked far more effective than it really was, and evidence of its effects has inevitably been difficult to disentangle from that of normal promotional activity.

Mrs Williams said last year: "I believe this voluntary agreement will make a low-budget shopping basket of basic goods more widely available. This should be particularly important for low-income families for whom inflation is an especially severe scourge."

The agreement is now up for renewal and those members of the Retail Consortium and Confederation of British Grocers who negotiated it last year are awaiting the Secretary of State's next move with slightly uneasy interest.

The problem for Mrs Williams is that she cannot afford to drop the thing, ephemeral as it may be, for it has become part of the Government's side of the social contract. But in its net profit safeguard of last year the Government has tacitly accepted the trade's case that there is very little left in the gross margin left for use on extra price cuts.

Many shoppers thought last year that the "voluntary" agreement was based on a cut in actual profits rather than profit ceilings. But this agreement to cut prices was one in which prices were not necessarily required to be cut. Furthermore, the agreement was not "voluntary" at all, since Mrs Williams made it clear in negotiations with

traders that if they would not adopt a price-cutting plan she would use the Prices Act to enforce one.

But retailers jibbed at publishing the deal as well as operating it, and ministers' hopes of seeing shops festooned with signs about "special offers from Shirley's shopping basket" remained unfulfilled almost everywhere.

The only clear results of the agreement in the past year has been on bread, where grocers who were allowed to charge 14p for a large subsidized sliced loaf cut the price at times to as little as 9p, although it seldom fell below 11p.

But price-cutting on bread began to level off, which was already reduced artificially by a multi-million pound subsidy. The effect of the "voluntary" agreement on the unsubsidized groceries that it covered, including potatoes, main crop, or one basic vegetable, was one cut and one electric bulb, one standard line, has been hard to discern.

Traders are ready to accept a reiteration of the agreement in return for assurances about the use of the law. Clause Two of the Prices Act, 1974, to be changed in detail only in its 1975 successor, is entitled "Power of Secretary of State to regulate price of food and certain other goods".

Grocers have found Mrs Williams relatively sympathetic. More so, at least, than they imagine that some of her colleagues would be as Secretary of State. They know, however, that if most British voters decide to leave the EEC there will be a new Secretary of State.

Mrs Williams has been most assiduous in restricting her use of Clause Two to subsidized foods, apart from an initial flurry in which her department seemed to be on the verge of announcing similar controls for unsubsidized foods. Food retailers want to know, therefore, if they are to have price-fixing powers at their backs indefinitely.

They also want to know how

far Mrs Williams intends to push in her reiteration of the "voluntary" agreement. One possibility is to allow "cross-subsidization", so that the man who makes cuts on fish fingers will be able to load a little extra on to salmon mornay and dressed crab. Unfortunately there are more fish fingers than exotic frozen fish dishes, so that a slight reduction on fingers would make scanty very expensive indeed.

The Secretary of State has told trade leaders that she wants to talk about "prices and pricing" in the context of renewing the "voluntary" agreement. Does this mean, the trade wonders in its blackest moments, that she wants to monkey about with their margins? The Act would allow her to do so.

One of the Retail Consortium's most notable victories in the statutory price control period so far was to convince the last Conservative government that grocery prices should be controlled through percentage rather than through cash margins. Mrs Williams might want to soften the impact of future increases on basic groceries by squeezing the cash, rather than the percentage, margin.

Grocers think that their trading is fast too hedged about with legislation as it is, and they will campaign very hard against any attempt by the Government to impose more controls.

The trade's case is: "Leave us alone and we will do the job quite adequately. Any interference in trade that is not backed by torrents of public money, like subsidy payments, merely obliges the trade to employ more lawyers and accountants, but does not benefit the public."

But Mrs Williams has a case as well, although it has lost force as her controls have restricted the ability of traders to make high profits.

Hugh Clayton

Business Diary in Europe • Agnellis still pressing their suit

Giovanni and Umberto Agnelli, the Fiat bosses, were among the first motor industry leaders to urge the formation of bigger European groups capable of taking on the huge Japanese and American corporations.

Despite a number of protracted courtships and one short-lived marriage with Citroën they are still determined to press on with their own plans to give Europe at least one multi-national motor giant.

Last week in Brussels, only 24 hours after the EEC Commission had given its blessing, they announced details of their latest move: Fiat and Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz of Germany have merged their commercial vehicle interests. They will be controlled by a new holding company Industrial Vehicles Corporation (Iveco) with headquarters in Amsterdam. And this time the Agnellis are making quite sure there will be no repetition of the Citroën episode by taking 80 per cent of Iveco's shares.

We asked Umberto Agnelli, Fiat's managing director, if his short-term experience had soured his hopes of further mergers with European "or companies." "Not in the least," he replied. "When two companies share the road for the first time

there are bound to be difficulties but it is only by taking risks that you get anywhere."

Had he benefited from his failures by ensuring that the marriage contract with his German bride contained a divorce clause which would not be as easily broken with Citroën? "Who wants to talk about divorce at the wedding feast?" he joked, adding significantly, however, "We think we have taken care of all the likely problems this time."

The new Franco-German combine already accounts for 23 per cent of EEC commercial vehicle production—only one per cent less than the market leader Mercedes-Benz. It employs 50,000 in eight Italian plants, four French and four German.

This completes the second stage in the Agnellis' merger plans for commercial vehicles. During the 1960s they brought about the integration of four commercial vehicle companies in Italy and France—Fiat, OM, Unic and Lancia Veicoli Speciali.

With the arrival of KHD's Magirus Deutz truck capacity the intention now is to concentrate Fiat's Brescia plant, medium duty vehicles at Unic in Trapp's plant and heavy road trucks at Turin. This leaves

Magirus Deutz to concentrate on off-road construction trucks which their famous air-cooled diesel engines are particularly suited.

It also promises new business for British component manufacturers that, while South Agnelli told us that Iveco will have a much more international purchasing policy than the two partners pursued hitherto. It would also manufacture fewer components "in house".

Swedish voice

While Britain moves towards referendum day on June 3, businessmen among our old EFTA partners in Sweden appear confident. British should, and will stay in the Community. Business leaders point out that a decision to withdraw could pose problems for Britain's free trade arrangements in the EFTA countries such as Sweden, which have separate arrangements with the EEC.

William Faux of the Federation of Swedish Industries (which is very pally with our own pro-Market CBI) argues that the act of leaving the EEC would call for great negotiating subtlety and would also cause great confusion for European trade.

Faux says: "Leading British politicians consider that they have the right to refuse to answer hypothetical ques-

tions. Nevertheless, one must hope that the leading British anti-market leaders in the TUC and in the parties together now set out how they propose to act if they win. In 1975 no one can derive comfort from the old newspaper headline "Storm in Channel—Continued isolated".

Some Swedish manufacturers fear that if the United Kingdom leaves the EEC they may lose some of the substantial trading advantages Sweden was granted as part of their negotiations. A number of Swedish products get special concessions because they contain components made in Britain, which entitles them to a preferential treatment for containing parts made inside the community.

Gemini star

Flautist Edouard Williamson and harpsichordist Marie-Adele de Place will be giving a private recital of unpublished eighteenth-century chamber music by composers such as Clementi and Devienne on May 11.

Williamson, who is director of the international products division of the Gemini software network, likes to put his flute to rest his weekly itinerary, averaging four countries.

Music is one of the fixtures in Williamson's otherwise mobile life. Another is his determination to keep his home, his wife and four children in Chérog, the hamlet near Lille where he was born.

This he has done throughout 10 years with ICL, latterly as their regional manager for northern France and Belgium, through two years in Montreal and New York, and since 1971 with Gemini, operating from offices in Paris, The Hague and now Brussels.



Gemini's Williamson: knows his place.

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Williamson is a resolutely French. His father, Harry, is a member of a family behind

William Williamson & Son, the Kirkcaldy-based import-export house, but settled in France. Williamson has spent some time with the firm, which grew out of the flax trade, and even did his national service with the "Black Watch". Eventually he decided to back France and computers rather than textiles and Scotland.

Gemini markets programme products among European software houses, both the sales and technical support being the responsibility of the same man. This week will see Williamson in Paris, Frankfurt, Munich, Brussels — and Chérog.

Wildfire

Sweden is often held out as the cradle of industrial democracy, although for the past three weeks around 15,000 forestry workers in Sweden's northern territories have been engaged in a wildcat—or should we say "wildfire"—strike over pay which ranks as the country's worst industrial dispute since the metal workers' strike of 1945. Unofficial strikes are new to Sweden.

The foresters want the abolition of piece rates, linked to the number of monthly salaries of 4,000 Swedish Kroner (about £400 a month).

INTERNATIONAL STORES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar with effect from the 10th March, 1975.

All correspondence and documents for registration regarding the Stock Register should in future be sent to—

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
The Causeway, Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD Code

Importance
of right
comparisons.
page 16

Paying the
price for
Keynesian glory
page 17

State industry investment plans will be switched to Budget speech

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

The customary White Paper detailing the Government's main domestic lending and borrowing will not be published to-day when the Chancellor makes his Budget speech.

There are indications that Mr. Healey intends to devote a section of his speech to the crucial investment programmes of the nationalized industries and supplement this with a new table in the main Financial Statement and Budget Report (the Red Book).

For the past 14 years, successive Chancellors have issued a separate annual statement on lending to public authorities, first under the title Government Expenditure Below The Line and then in the form of a White Paper, Loans from the National Loans Fund (the Treasury's main account for the bulk of Government's domestic lending and borrowing).

Mr. Healey is faced with a pledge to raise the capital spending of state industries in the coming financial year 1975-76 to £2,610m while progressively ending exchequer subsidies in favour of more realistic pricing policies.

The White Paper, which will not now appear, would normally have provided an estimate of each industry's capital spending needs together with a forecast of how the funds would be found—from internal resources, domestic borrowing from the National Loans Fund or foreign loans backed by Treasury guarantees.

In the recent years, there has been a big change in state

industry financing, with the National Loans Fund being greatly supplemented by overseas borrowings, now at a record level. In the past financial year, the state industries have entered into new foreign borrowings totalling more than £745m.

The question is being asked how the big investment programmes, now regarded by the Chancellor as vital in stimulating other industrial investment, especially for capital goods and materials, will be funded in the year ahead.

A return to more economic pricing is bound to generate a higher ratio of self-financing, but most nationalized industries are finding themselves with far bigger wage bills and other cost increases.

Ahead are new state industries being set up under legislation (the British National Oil Corporation, the National Enterprise Board, and the aircraft and shipbuilding authorities) and each requiring a capital structure.

The White Paper on Public Expenditure, published in January, stressed that the estimates it contained of nationalized industry and related industrial programmes certainly understated likely future levels and some call would be needed on contingency reserves in the national accounts.

This year's state industry spending is vital in assessing any implications for budgetary imbalance. The new table in the Financial Statement will give public authority borrowing for 1974-75 and 1975-76 under the main table for public sector accounts.

PO chief to conduct inquiry into cable pacts

By Our Industrial Staff

Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, has now taken personal charge of inquiries into the restrictive trading agreements operated by Britain's major telephone cable suppliers on Post Office contracts.

Legal advice is being taken. The scrutiny covers the three agreements which became void last month when they were registered with the Office of Fair Trading (as fourth, also void, covered non-Post Office customers) and a new agreement now registered, and therefore operative, between British Insulated Cables, Cables, Standard Telephone Cables, and Telephone Cables, the four groups principally involved in the agreements.

The new agreement, which is virtually certain to be taken before the Restrictive Practices Court, involves market sharing by the four companies meeting in committee.

Under the provisions of the agreement any party receiving an inquiry or invitation to tender must immediately notify the committee secretary who, when two or more of the companies appear to be bidding for the same project, calls a meeting.

Before the meeting prices will have been confidentially submitted to the secretary who must then tell the members of the committee the identity of the party intending to quote the lowest price for each item, or each scheme if it is a supply and install inquiry.

The committee then goes into a selected party to nominate a so-called "selected party". The "selected party" can be any of the committee members who received an invitation to bid with the exception of the lowest tender.

Until this point all prices, including those of the lowest tender, are kept strictly secret.

When the prices are finally revealed the selected company is at liberty to reduce its price or to raise it to a price nearer to or equal to, but not lower than, the original lowest tender. All the others must submit their bids at their original prices.

NUBE call to table 25pc wage claim

By R. W. Shakespeare

Demand for immediate pay increases of at least 25 per cent for about 100,000 workers are expected to be made from the annual conference of the National Union of Bank Employees, which opens in Manchester today.

A composite motion before the delegates, which will almost certainly have the backing of the union's executive, claims that increases of this order are necessary to "improve the declining standards of living of bank staffs".

The union, which negotiates with the leading clearing banks which it has joint negotiating rights with the staff associations—the Greater Savings Banks, some of the building societies and other finance houses, concluded its last pay agreement with the clearing banks in July.

This brought increases from 5.3 per cent to 13.8 per cent and further pay increases incorporating threshold payments were negotiated from August 1. Any fresh agreement with the clearing banks would become operative from July 1.

The conference is also expected to approve another motion instructing the union executive to apply for re-affiliation to the TUC.

The NUBE and the TUC parted company over registration under the Conservative Government's Industrial Relations Act.

Now the union, if it decides to seek re-affiliation, could find itself faced with a bill for fees to the TUC covering the period during which it has been suspended from membership.

This has provoked amendments from some branches calling on the conference to reject the re-affiliation move unless the TUC is prepared to waive payment of these fees.

Mr. Peart is expected to point out that Britain is the biggest producer of food fish in Europe with 819,000 tonnes or 28 per cent of the total EEC catch of 3.18 million tonnes.

The degeneration of the public sector is emerging as an issue in the campaign for the June 15 regional elections.

Among specific demands, the Communist motion called on the government to:

1.—Suspend public sector appointments pending the formation within one month of criteria for selecting candidates;

2.—Clarify various share operations by ENI and other bodies in Montedison, and set up a new public corporation in which all public shareholdings in Montedison would be concentrated;

3.—Produce within six months a national chemical plan;

4.—Annul the ECAM-Fassio

Mr Ford faces new Trade Act tussle

From Frank Vogt
Washington, April 13

President Ford is preparing for a new battle with Congress on key international trade issues.

A major fear among senior Administration trade officials is that the new confrontation with the Congress could jeopardize the President's authority in the recently opened round of GATT multilateral trade liberalization negotiations.

The President is at the moment seeking changes in the 1974 Trade Act to improve trade between the United States and the Soviet Union, and better terms for those oil exporting countries which did not participate in the oil embargo on the United States in late 1973 (Cuba, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Venezuela and Ecuador).

After two months of intensive negotiations, the White House has reached agreement with leaders of the Ways and Means

Committee and the Trade Committee of the House of Representatives on a new Bill covering business with these oil-producing countries.

The legislation, now being introduced into the Congress, will give the President authority to waive all limitations on granting preferential trade terms to oil exporting countries that did not participate in the embargo, whenever the President considers such action to be "in the national economic interest".

White House sources noted that no decision had been made on dealing with the provisions in the Trade Act that the Soviet Union ease its emigration laws as a condition for obtaining subsidized credits and most-favoured-nation status from the United States.

But the President is determined to find a way around these conditions, and White House studies of the problems suggest this can only be done

through new legislation, the sources added.

Officials stressed that it was premature to talk of any definite timing for introduction of new legislation affecting Soviet trade. The President did not, it appears, associate himself with remarks by Mr. William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, in Moscow yesterday.

Mr. Simon said new legislation on trade with the Russians would be proposed in midsummer.

In fact, the White House appears distressed that Mr. Simon should have decided to speak so openly now about the prospects of new legislation. Not only are his remarks being viewed as perhaps misleading the Russians, but they are seen as possibly having a detrimental impact on the present behind-the-scenes negotiations taking place between leading Congressmen and the White House.

For the time being the White House is determined to avoid

introducing controversial trade legislation dealing with the Soviet Union until such time as it believes this could go through Congress without having items added that could weaken the President's authority on GATT matters.

President Ford's remarks last night on trade with the Soviet Union in his State of the World Address, were intended to serve notice on the Congress that he is determined to see changes made in due course to the Trade Act, according to Administration officials.

The President specifically refrained from calling on Congress to legislate changes in the Trade Act with regard to the Soviet Union. All he sought to do was to pose the problems and improve the atmosphere for eventual changes.

The President carefully avoided asking for new legislation but merely called for a "re-examination" of problems connected with Soviet trade.

BIM urges less penal taxation on higher-paid

By Business News Staff

Evidence by the British Institute of Management to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth today will say that management should be allowed to benefit from a less penal taxation system for the higher-paid.

The evidence to be submitted adds that executives in British companies are already "the poor relations of Western Europe" and are suffering from a feeling of injustice as differentials are whittled away and salary restrictions and the sharp progression of British income tax reduce earnings to a fraction of those of their overseas counterparts.

Many people in management were beginning to question whether their hard work, long hours and heavy responsibility were being appreciated and were being tempted to do no more than they need.

"This would be extremely damaging to the interests of a country as dependent as Britain is on the success of industry, commerce and foreign trade. A less penal taxation system at higher income levels should remove this temptation," the BIM adds.

It also says that in many salaries of more than £10,000 a year the boards of companies have special considerations, including the wealth-creating function of the individual and the fact that his contribution to the company exceeds the salary paid.

The evidence also includes a report of a survey carried out by the BIM among chief executives of 70 large companies. The BIM says that it was felt by executives that government restrictions on higher salaries and the accompanying levels of taxation had had a deleterious effect on executive morale. In the long term this would affect the whole performance of industry.

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Politics may decide if Concorde flies to US

By Our United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, April 13

It is now almost certain that the decision by the United States authorities on whether British Airways and Air France will be allowed to operate regular commercial Concorde services to Washington and New York will be determined by political rather than technical factors.

Forceful political arguments against Concorde will be made tomorrow at a crucial hearing convened by the Federal Aviation Administration. The first speaker is one of the most influential political opponents of the supersonic jet, Senator William Proxmire.

Officials from the British and French manufacturers of Concorde told *The Times* today that they were confident they could demonstrate effectively at the hearing that Concorde could meet all American technical and environmental standards and regulations.

One senior executive from the British Aircraft Corporation noted that he would have no

doubts about Concorde being granted permission to operate into the United States if the judgment were made on technical grounds alone.

The strategy of the manufacturers will be to confine arguments to technical matters and try to block the political and emotional opposition. Aviation experts here maintain it is likely that the FAA will rule in Concorde's favour, but that the New York-New Jersey Port Authority, which operates Kennedy International Airport, may be harder to convince.

A major danger, however, is posed by Senator Proxmire, who is believed to be preparing legislation that will prevent supersonic jets using American airspace for commercial purposes. Such legislation, if passed by the Congress, could wreck Concorde's chances, irrespective of the decisions taken by the FAA and airport authority.

Concorde's manufacturers doubt if there will be sufficient support in Congress for legislation against Concorde.

A final decision by the American authorities could be made in the late summer.

Mr Peart in 'last chance' talks on EEC fisheries

By Ronald Kershaw

A last chance to recruit the support of thousands of English fishermen and workers in associated industries for staying in the EEC will come tomorrow when Mr. Fred Peart, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food travels to Brussels to discuss the revision of the common fisheries policy with fellow EEC ministers.

A spokesman for the British Trawlers Federation said last night: "The Brussels negotiations are a test of the spirit of the EEC and the will of the Government. The British fishing industry's predicament is quite clear in that the common fisheries policy, as it now is, clearly discriminates against us."

It is no exaggeration to say that the fishing industry is frankly disillusioned with the Government's efforts on its behalf up to now, and regards these negotiations as its last chance for survival in anything like its present form."

Since the blockage of British

ports, the fisheries policy has become a key issue in the light of the June 5 referendum. The British fishing industry believes the Government has already lost the votes of the Scottish fishermen and associated workers, but English fishermen are still hesitant.

The worldwide extension of fishing limits to 200 miles, the industry believes, is inevitable. This will create fishing "ponds" for coastal states. The EEC issue revolves around fish for human consumption and Britain's own contribution to the European industry.

It is argued that Britain's own "pond" will form more than half the EEC "pond" and EEC vessels will have to be treated as if they were British vessels. The result will be that British vessels will be squeezed out of their own waters.

Mr. Peart is expected to point out that Britain is the biggest producer of food fish in Europe with 819,000 tonnes or 28 per cent of the total EEC catch of 3.18 million tonnes.

The degeneration of the public sector is emerging as an issue in the campaign for the June 15 regional elections.

Among specific demands, the Communist motion called on the government to:

1.—Suspend public sector appointments pending the formation within one month of criteria for selecting candidates;

2.—Clarify various share operations by ENI and other bodies in Montedison, and set up a new public corporation in which all public shareholdings in Montedison would be concentrated;

3.—Produce within six months a national chemical plan;

4.—Annul the ECAM-Fassio

operation, take measures against those responsible and make EGAM return to its statutory activities as a minerals corporation;

5.—Draft a thorough reorganization of the state sector, which would avoid waste and duplication and prevent corporations from acting "capriciously";

6.—Lay down precise norms for the compilation and auditing of state corporations' accounts;

7.—Prohibit state corporations from setting up financial "shell" companies abroad;

8.—Allow the establishment of a parliamentary commission with adequate powers of supervision.

Chinese oil prospects attract UK companies

By William Gillen

British companies with North Sea interests are now considering entering the huge new market that is opening for oil development in the South China Sea.

The companies are particularly interested in the major offshore discoveries made by the Chinese. Big oil finds have been reported in the South China Sea in recent months.

It is understood the Chinese believe that, with the substantial fields they already have on land, the offshore discoveries will make them one of the biggest exporters in the world.

They are also planning drilling, development of the new fields in Shanghai, at present.

One British company that is deeply interested in the possibilities of offshore China is Alan Grant and Partners, Consulting Engineers, of Glasgow.

They have designed a tension leg production platform which can be the answer to drilling for oil and natural gas at great depths. They are anxious to develop this platform, which could be used in the South China Sea.

Their CASUB design will operate at depths of 1,000ft and more. The platform floats on a buoyancy chamber at a depth of about 400ft below the surface. The buoyancy chamber and the production deck are linked by a complex of giant cables.

Mr. Alan Grant, head of the company, says that it is 20 per cent less costly than concrete production platforms now being built for about \$50m.

Constructors John Brown, who have taken a major part in management and development operations in North Sea oil fields, are also intensely interested in the new opportunities off the coast of China. Another company in the group, John Brown's, is also interested in the new opportunities off the coast of China.

A number of other British companies dealing in platforming, hydraulics and mooring ropes are also interested in the Chinese market.

One of their first opportunities to get an information about oil developments in China will come at a conference to be held in Glasgow in June under the auspices of the Sino-British Trade Council. A speaker at the conference will be Mr. R. D. Clark, the British Commercial Counsellor in China, who will speak about oil developments as seen from Peking.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, chairman of CEC and president of the Sino-British Trade Council, said that both China and the United Kingdom have a "similar urgent need" to develop known resources of oil and natural gas. He feels that as the oil interests of the two countries expand, there will be increasing opportunities for cooperation and trade between the two nations.

The NUBE and the TUC parted company over registration under the Conservative Government's Industrial Relations Act.

Now the union, if it decides to seek re-affiliation, could find itself faced with a bill for fees to the TUC covering the period during which it has been suspended from membership.

This has provoked amendments from some branches calling on the conference to reject the re-affiliation move unless the TUC is prepared to waive payment of these fees.

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Compromise nearer on energy agenda

From Roger Vialencq
Paris, April 13

A world conference to discuss the problems of both energy and raw materials now looks certain to be held this summer. After five days of deadlock on the scope of the agenda the 30 nations representing the industrialized and Third World countries were to agree on the point of agreement just what the conference should discuss.

A day of mediation by the French chairman of the preparatory conference produced a single agenda incorporating the basis for a compromise between the Third World's demand that energy should only be discussed among a number of raw materials and the industrialized countries' insistence that oil and energy must be the primary subject for discussion.

A French government spokesman said a statement would be issued containing details of the number of participants; how the seats at the conference would be divided among the industrialized, oil-producing, and other Third World countries. It would also name the venue and an approximate date.

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HOPES FOR A KHMER IDENTITY

A new government in Cambodia seems now to be a matter of days—perhaps even of hours. It is not the military situation that makes this seem inevitable; indeed, the military timetable round the Phnom Penh perimeter has been a puzzle for months past and may be so yet again, despite hungry, unpaid defending troops who must be short of ammunition. In the few days remaining when the American aid will sustain them they may hold on. In any case the Khmer Rouge will still want to respond to something that can be interpreted as a call from the “people”—or whatever political figure can represent them—rather than simply to win power of military conquest.

The old government was doomed because it was from its very inception identified with American power and American policy. More than two years ago that policy had already been changed; now the power has finally been withdrawn. No last moment pleas from President Ford can make any difference. If there were any hopes that Prince Sihanouk might step in as a mediator they have been disappointed: his status as the nominal head of the provisional government is far too weak to permit him any such initiative. For final confirmation there has now been the departure of the American diplomatic mission from Phnom Penh. That removes the psychological prop and in capitals such as Phnom Penh it is the psychological prop of American power that has sustained morale more than the actual flow of military supplies or economic aid. Politically it may be said that Phnom Penh has collapsed, though in Saigon a stronger military machine may hold even when the cracks in morale there, too, are plainly visible.

The obvious question is to ask what sort of a government they may soon see in Phnom Penh. Any attempt to answer must start by asserting that politically there is a world of difference between Phnom Penh and Saigon. The Vietnamese have always been a part of the Chinese world, most of all in the Chinese view of the state, its doctrines and its authority. Though not for the peasant masses, for the ruling class in Vietnam political consciousness has been a living thing for many centuries. This is not true of Cambodia, which does inhabit a different world, a world conscious of China, as the great power of East Asia certainly, but no less conscious of the Khmer Buddhist identity, linked naturally to Thailand and Laos but linked to Vietnam only by modern political circumstance.

The tragedy of the last five years is that the Cambodians have been forced into the same political uniform as their Vietnamese neighbours. Yet they had succeeded in emerging from their colonial era almost undamaged—save for some ineffective meddling by Vietnamese communists. After the Geneva conference of 1954 their future as a nation was no more shaky than that of most other newly independent countries, whereas in Vietnam the war of colonial emergence was very soon succeeded by another and even more destructive war. For a decade Prince Sihanouk's political dexterity kept his country out of this war save for a degree of intrusion that was harmless to Cambodia and to such warping of his neutralist policy as seemed to him unavoidable.

The war that has been fought since 1970 in Cambodia has been scarcely at all a Cambodian war: it has been a Washington, Hanoi,

Saigon, Peking war, echoed by only a handful of active Cambodian sympathizers with the causes that these other capitals have held so dear. No real Cambodian causes have been at issue. But there it is. The damage has been done. If the warfare is now ending the world is going to have to adjust itself to the outcome. Just how indelibly communist then has the Marxism of a French university education, or a North Vietnamese political conditioning, or the potent message of Chairman Mao beamed from the Peking transmitter, been able to make a greater attempt to broaden the social base of the magistracy.

Recent experience suggests that the reluctance of working people, and younger workers especially, to contribute to this most democratic form of public service, can be traced to financial causes. Companies are usually happy enough to grant the necessary leave of absence (26 days per annum minimum), but they can hardly be expected to subsidize the workings of justice.

There is at present a small loss of earnings allowance for magistrates claim a more realistic system of payment would go some way towards laying to rest the unfortunate spectre of noblesse oblige. Yours faithfully, JULIAN ALLASON, 326 Fulham Road, SW10, April 11.

The payment of justices

From Mr Julian Allason

Sir, As a recently appointed justice of the peace, still I believe the youngest, may I be allowed from this judicial viewpoint to raise the question of payment for justices.

A large section of the community, my own age group in particular, still regard the magistracy as the last bastion of upper middle class, middle aged reaction. On balance, I think this is an erroneous view, but one which given the current age/class basis of magistracy, is likely to persist.

It is, we are told, of prime importance that justice be seen to be done. It is not therefore to be advised to make a greater attempt to broaden the social base of the magistracy.

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Change in South Africa

From Mr R. M. Macnab

Sir, On arriving in London from Johannesburg I was interested to find in *The Times* (April 8) that Judith Listowel's recent impressions of South Africa were not unlike my own. However, in suggesting that the Afrikaans press ought to reach the facts of life those whites who still keep their heads in the sand, she seems to be unaware of the role now being played by that press in doing just that. In fact, the change in the Afrikaans press is a dominating impression in a changing South Africa.

That of the newspapers she mentions, *Die Transvaler*, *Koers*, *Die Beeld* have new editors, modern minds and fearless pens; despite the presence on the board of directors of Cabinet Ministers, they show increasing editorial independence and sometimes, as in the case of *Die Beeld*, support recently, run into strong ministerial criticism in constituency speeches.

The effect of all this on their readership may be seen in the correspondence columns: readers' letters show a confusion about what to do and think. Adding to the confusion is the fact that this readership is now exposed directly to black opinion, since the Afrikaans press, following the English-language press but black columnists, including one of Africa's most distinguished journalists, Tom Moeane, writing in Afrikaans, on controversial issues in a frank, forthright way.

Add to this the weekly column in English in the *Rand Daily Mail* by that ubiquitous character, Chief Gathu Buthelesi and Percy Gathu's lively editorship of *The Mirror* with its half a million readers, and there can be no excuse for ignorance about black opinion. Lady Listowel's suggestion that the special branch should keep Mr Vorster and his colleagues informed on black opinion would seem to be unnecessary in view of the known facts that the latter are avid readers of newspapers.

My own conversations with black business and professional men, including some members of my own board in Johannesburg, confirm Lady Listowel's impressions of what Africans are seeking, notably more security and opportunity, fewer irksome restrictions.

Meanwhile a good lead has come from a distinguished Afrikaner, Dr Jan Marais, who ended his recent presidential address in Durban as head of the South African Foundation with the words: “Let us of different kinds. I have been struck, however, by the total absence of comment on the plea made by the Director of the Museum and Art Galleries of the Tyne and Wear County Council that the same grants should be offered to institutions striving for historic ships as are offered for the purchase of other works of art under threat of export.” (*The Times*, March 25). The occasion for the suggestion was the sale of the ship *Archambault* to the New York Museum.

Why as a nation are we so mean about preserving the physical record of our maritime history? If it were not for the initiative of the Maritime Trust (formed in 1969) and other independent trusts, and the generous giving of private money to them, HMS *Victory* would for example, have been sold and the preserved warship in this country. In a letter which you published on the anniversary of Jutland last year I drew attention to the nation's neglect of its historic ships as compared with the preservation of its historic buildings, and asked specifically that public funds should be used to restore HMS *Caroline* as a monument to those who built the Grand Fleet and served in it. The correspondence that this letter drew was—typically—perhaps devoted entirely to the question of whether

The explosion in local government costs

From Sir Jack Longland

Sir, Perhaps you will allow a member of the late Royal Commission on Local Government to support the major part of the case argued by your local government correspondent, Christopher Warman (April 7). The Redcliffe-Maud recommendation was to do away with a second tier of operational authorities, on the grounds of geographical archaism, unfitness for function, division of unitary services, duplication, defects of delegation and unnecessary expense.

The resolve of the late Conservative administration, while still in opposition, to retain an operational second tier was almost casually entered into, never properly considered, but fastened round the neck of Mr Heath's government by its inclusion in their election manifesto.

In this decision, his government was, very naturally, supported by the associations of district councils, but also, misguided, by the County Councils Association, whose historical relations with the Association of Municipal Corporations had made them understandably fearful of powerful unitary authorities. Nowadays, as I go round the country, meeting county councillors and their chief officers, I am told over and over again, though usually off the record, how much most of them regret the adoption of the two-tier solution. Mr Peter Walker's albatross hangs heavily round their necks, as it does round the necks of their chief officers.

First, there is the unnecessary and potentially disastrous division of single functions, such as the splitting of planning between rural authorities; when you add in housing, the fragmentation of planning, even worse, as Mr Lady Sharp had once to point out to Dick Crossman. Second, there is the entirely understandable desire of the newly enlarged district councils to stake out and consolidate their provinces, to secure a large share of the planning and other perks, and to have offices and officers to match their new magnificence. Third, and consequently, the partly rate-borne salaries of the senior officers of the second-tier authorities have been inflated by the jobs and responsibilities of their jobs, with consequent repercussions on first-tier salaries too. In trains, and clubs and pubs I find that this is perhaps the greatest cause of the current resentment among ratepayers.

Financing education

From Mr Frank A. Harris

Sir, Tim Devlin's abbreviated report (April 4) of the NUT conference debate on educational expenditure gave a false impression of our proposal.

In moving the motion which sought to remove all educational expenditure from the local rates I made it quite clear that we wished to establish a truly national education service which could be locally controlled. I suggested that a large part of the service should be financed by a health authority where professionals work alongside elected members and administer a national service. Area education boards would employ a chief education officer and similar support staff to the present local education authorities and would be responsible for all appointments in their area.

Clearly education charges are enormous and must continue to do so if the quality of the service is not to be impaired. However, it is unrealistic to expect local authorities to continue to finance the education service via an

Police image on television

From Mr F. R. Davies

Sir, Only a few weeks ago, I wrote to the Independent Broadcasting Authority criticising the presentation of the *Sweeney* series on Thames Television.

Their reply was not very satisfactory and I wrote back and said so. Last night (April 10) I watched the presentation of *Special Branch*. It was unbelievably bad. Today, colleagues, who know my back-ground, have been asking if *Special Branch* officers like Craven exist, and do chief superintendents and sergeants on the *Complaints Squad* (A40) really perform in the manner depicted.

A10 officers are not the most popular in the force—though no fault of their own—but the way their image was portrayed last night was disgraceful. As for Craven, he would never have made first base in *Special Branch*.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, in replying to my letter on the *Sweeney* said, and I quote, “We doubt whether it will mislead the vast majority of viewers, who are perfectly capable of comprehending the difference between fact and fiction.”

I am of the opinion that if television continues to produce cops and robbers series with genuine Police Department titles, many viewers will begin to believe that this is the way police really behave. Please, can we not have more accuracy in presentations of this nature? Yours faithfully, F. R. DAVIES, ex-Commander, Flying Squad, Chessington, Surrey, April 11.

New council offices

From Mr Peter Lebus

Sir, Your profile of local authorities after the reorganization on April 7, highlights a major source of irritation and potential conflict between the new authorities and the ratepayers. New council offices are being proposed at a time of explosive cost increases and shortage of funds. At the same time, existing office buildings are thrown onto the scrap heap as surplus to requirements. Many of these buildings have become part of the local scene over the decades. In Architectural Heritage Year it is surely inappropriate, to say the least, to dispose of them.

Many of these older buildings are grossly misused at the present time, large areas of space wasted and poor working conditions for staff. The potential for improvement by using modern planning techniques is enormous and at a fraction of the cost of a new building.

In some cases a new central building complex is inevitable but this need not result in a total rejection of the old. A simple audit of existing buildings can indicate which are capable of worthwhile improvement. This will give time for the authorities to settle down into their new pattern and will permit a gradual replacement of obsolescent buildings when resources are available. Yours faithfully, PETER LEBUS, Managing Director, C E Planning Ltd, 32 Aybrook Street, W1, April 9.

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Humberside development

From Commander H. Pursey

Sir, In your praiseworthy “Humberside—A Special Report” (April 7), none of the contributors dealt with the two major advantages of this important national development area and its most serious disadvantage. The disadvantage is the absence of a modern airport. The two exceptional advantages are:

1. The approach to the River Humber has the deepest water on the east coast of England and could take the largest ships on this coast. 2. Just inside the entrance, at Spurn Point, is a large deep-water area, with a recoverable space, the Sand, the size of the city of Hull.

Richard Crossman, when the Minister responsible, considered the East Riding as one of the most suitable areas for a much-needed new town. The massive new coal mine, foreshadowed at Selby, will provide a substantial incentive. Unfortunately, there has been no real local authority enthusiasm for such an attractive proposition—despite my 25 years advocacy for it—as the previous MP for East Hull, 1945-70.

Foreign large-scale developers, entering the river by ship—as well as ship captains and owners—excitedly exclaim to the River Humber pilots: “What a marvellous stretch of water. . . If it were in our country the land would be reclaimed and a new harbour and town developed.”

The new authority, the British Transport Docks Board, is enthusiastic. Has Britain to wait for a Common Market consortium to provide the capital for this important river and land achievement, or for an Arab oil tycoon—perhaps with an oil refinery on offer—to invest some of his surplus millions of pounds in a venture which should be a British enterprise? Yours faithfully, H. PURSEY, 43 Farnaby Road, Bromley, Kent, April 8.

Conditions in Chile

From Lord Aldenham

Sir, I read with sadness Mr Mortimer's article. A human casualty of the Chilean crisis is in your issue of Saturday, April 5. Not only I am sorry for Mrs Bell and her child, but also that your correspondent should have published an article of such a nature, at a time of such a delicate situation in Chile.

I have just returned from yet another visit to that country and am not exactly an “insulated visitor,” having lived there for some years and being the sixth generation of a family that has been in Chile for nearly a century and a half.

I think Mr Mortimer would have formed a different impression of the regime if he had seen, as I did, the corpse of General Pinochet, Minister of the Interior, who died in an air crash. Thousands and thousands of ordinary Chileans lined the route I believe that those ordinary people are grieving for a member of their own race. Yours very truly, ALDENHAM, House of Lords, April 4.

The gloomy months

From Mrs Eileen Fishman

Sir, Surely we need not regard the recent “unreasonable” weather as an omen of the disclosure of the gods, or even as the portent of new ice age. It would be far more sensible to cultivate the kind of realism about the British climate which Trollope displayed 117 years ago when he wrote:

“The comic almanacs give a dreary picture of January as February. But in truth, the months which should be mild and April. Let no man boast himself that he has been through the perils of winter till at least the seventh of May.” Yours faithfully, ELEANOR FISHPAN, The Covert, University of Leeds, Halifax, West Yorkshire, April 11.

WHY THE NUS IS LOSING ITS RELEVANCE

The conference of the National Union of Students in Llandudno last week was not an inspiring spectacle likely to win new respect for student opinion or to reassure their present sympathizers. The attention of the delegates appeared to be concentrated on issues such as the Common Market, abortion, and nationalization, on which students as citizens have an entirely legitimate right to comment and act but which seem of only peripheral interest to students in their role as students. As a result more purely educational issues, and in particular those issues that could not be fitted easily into the arid stereotypes of the extreme left, received much less serious attention than they deserved from an organization that claims to represent the overwhelming majority of British students.

There is probably little point in suggesting gently to the new leadership of the NUS that there is a price to be paid for the kind of infantile political posturing at which they condescended in Llandudno. Nevertheless there has been a sad and unnecessary degeneration in the influence of the union in the past few years. Under the previous leadership of Jack Straw and Digby Jacks, one a Labour Party member and the other a Communist, the NUS managed to achieve some kind

of reasonable balance between rhetoric and reason.

While no one in the rank and file could fairly impugn the radicalism of the union, its influence in Westminster and Whitehall was still considerable. The voice of the NUS was listened to always with respect and often with respect. The comparative success with which British universities rode out the student troubles of the late 1960s was perhaps a proof of the skill with which the NUS preserved a balance between respect for the radical enthusiasms of its individual members and its obligation to behave responsibly and wisely in their interests. The impressive concordats between the union and the vice-chancellors and the local authority associations on student representation were the fruits of this policy.

The present state of the NUS is a reminder of the serious consequences of the failure to hold this balance between rhetoric and reason. Perhaps it does not matter too much that the spectrum of political opinions among NUS activists overlaps only at its extreme right margin with the spectrum of political opinions in the country as a whole. But it does matter a great deal that the NUS, instead of acting as a focus for the expression of student opinion, wastes its energy in essentially frivolous ideological

disputes. The first casualty is the union's own sense of perspective. The blunders that the union wears blind it to the possibility of anything but the crudest political response to the complicated issues that affect students. For example, in the present climate of opinion within the NUS anything but outright condemnation of Mr Prentice's planned cuts in the colleges of education was impossible. The practical consequences of possible unemployment among young teachers was subordinated rigorously to the theoretical consequences of the NUS acquiescing in any cuts in education.

The second casualty is the union's influence in official circles. Perhaps this loss will not be regretted by the NUS but it will certainly be felt when claims for higher grants or more extensive participation are made.

The third casualty is the most serious, the loss of a united student voice in the affairs of education. The consequence of the NUS's retreat into irrelevance will be a diminution in the weight attached to student opinion by university vice-chancellors, polytechnic directors and college principals. In this context the attitude of the staff at Lancaster University to the recent disruption there is significant.

David Wood

After all, seven Cabinet ministers, more than a third of the other ministers in the administration, and more than half the parliamentary Labour Party, did vote against the Government in the EEC division last Wednesday night. The Government did win on Conservative and Liberal block votes. Mr Eric Heffer did defy the ground rules for ministerial conduct and have to be dismissed. The national executive committee does contain a majority opposed to the Government. April 26 is likely to damn the Government's recommendation for continued membership of the EEC.

None of that has been invented by “an inward looking, self-contained, circuit square mile in the Metropolis,” or by “sanctimonious critics in the unredeemed, regimented, pro-Common Market press.” And if Mr Wilson wants to have that called unity through strength or strength through unity, then he takes an idiosyncratic view of politics that nobody shares.

It is really needless to doubt that Mr Wilson knows too much because he knows that the present Labour divisions over the EEC are the most serious he has had to handle since he became Labour leader in 1963. They would be serious enough if they could be isolated from the rest of Labour politics. But they cannot be isolated, either in party or governmental terms.

By the decision to resort to a popular referendum, the EEC question has been placed precisely on the line of fracture between the two main groups that form the Labour coalition: the social democrats (or the right) and the full-blooded socialists (or the left).

The socialists during the years of Mr Wilson's leadership have established dominance in the a.e.c., the grade unions, and the party conference and now for the first time they see their opportunity to capture the P.L.P. Where the social democrats believe in a mixed economy, as Mr Callaghan said the other day, the socialists believe in state capitalism, achieved by nationalization, taxation, and all the devices of economic management and state intervention by ukase. The divisions between the two groups encompass almost the whole of politics.

At a perfect time for the left, when its strength is at its peak, the EEC question may be made to comprehend all the stuff of the party argument, the freedom of different decisions without restraint, employment policy, social policy, foreign policy defence policy—everything. And the referendum allows the one remaining stronghold of social democracy, the Cabinet majority and the Minister Group in the P.L.P., to be outflanked. For the executive authority of the Cabinet and the sovereignty of the Parliament has been subordinated to the sovereignty of the mass party in conference and the sovereignty of the popular ballot.

It is in that sense that the nature of British socialism, as it would seem on one political issue, is now being decided. Nor do I think it may be argued that the social democrats, or if you like the Gaitskillites and Wilsonites, can reasonably hope to win in the EEC ballot. A succession of socialist Labour governments has already constricted and weakened the private enterprise sector of the mixed economy, so much by taxation and economic management as by outright nationalization; and there is no obvious point at which the mixed economy socialists can say “Enough!”

Every succeeding Labour manifesto will register a new advance for the Marxists; every succeeding Labour government will seize more economic and industrial territory. It may be questioned whether the intermittent Conservative governments of the future will have the power and authority to reverse the trend.

A defeat for the full-blooded socialists in the EEC referendum is likely to provide only a temporary halt; for the social democrats of the Labour Party no longer have the will, the authority or the single-mindedness of purpose to keep a Marxist Britain indefinitely at bay. The palls that come out as screws are being driven into the coffin of the kind of socialism that Mr Wilson, most of the Cabinet, nearly half the Parliamentary Labour Party, and the overwhelming mass of Labour voters believe in. If it is to be a blackguard, then a blackguard I am content to be, and I turn to cocktail party invitations for consolation.

The arts and VAT

From Lady Antonia Fraser and Mr Francis King

Sir, There is widespread support for the zero-rating of the arts: indeed it is hard to find anyone who openly disagrees with it. Zero-rating the outputs of creative and performing artists would mitigate much of the unfair effect of VAT on these individuals. We have never sought to make a special case for writers and artists; we wish only to remove anomalies which arise from the application of VAT in this field.

A proposal is now before the European Commission that authors' royalties (outputs) should be zero-rated. This is encouraging as at one time it seemed that harmonization of VAT systems might weaken or eliminate the zero-rating mechanism. We urge the Government to take this opportunity of extending zero-rating to the arts and to artists and of making VAT less capricious. Yours faithfully, ANTONIA FRASER, Chairman, FRANCIS KING, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Management, The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, SW10, April 10.

Girls' schools

From Dr Donald Clarke

Sir, In their letters (March 21 and April 4 respectively), Miss Madeline McLachlan and Mrs Stephanie Fierz advance the claims of the North London Collegiate School (1850) and Queen's College (1848) to have pioneered an academic education for girls.

The Princess Helena College was founded in 1820, originally occupying premises at St Andrew's Place on the west side of Regent's Park, and it has long claimed the above distinction. A wide curriculum was followed. The girls were taught to read, to write, to speak English and French grammatically; to be well-

grounded in Sacred and Profane History, Chronology, Ancient and Modern Geography and the use of the Globes; perfect in the Rudiments of Drawing and the Theory of Music; and in the use of the Latin and Italian languages.

As the original purpose of the school, which it successfully fulfilled, was to equip girls to be governesses and teachers, it is not surprising that the first teachers' training college.

Yours faithfully, DONALD CLARKE, Headmaster, The Princess Helena College, Temple Dinsley, Preston, near Hichin, Hertfordshire, April 10.

Wine business can wait

offrey Thomas

History of Le Marche (there are even murals that it is one of the few vines in Europe to escape its deadly enemy, the virulent disease phylloxera) as well as playing a key role in the region's future wine prosperity.

Verdicchio, whose export to other areas of Italy in ancient times proved fruitful, has subsequently found a singular fame around the hill towns of Castelli di Jesi to the right and left of the Esino river towards the north-east of the region.

It was this verdicchio which took the fancy of Alaric, King of the Visigoths in 410 AD, who took barrels of the wine with him as he departed for the east, "imported health and warlike vigour to his soldiers better than anything else".

The classic cleanliness and harmony of the Castelli di Jesi verdicchio has continued to find admirers wherever it is drunk, and not merely for its qualities as the ideal complement to fish. Cyril Ray has described it as "ranked with some of the best of all Italian white wines".

International praise, however, has not influenced unrelenting official Italian ambitions for the wine's quality potential. In the 10-year period ending 1973, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi achieved an official wine "score" of only a little over two out of a possible mark of five.

Its traditional amphora-shaped bottle, although often criticised for its vulgarity by wine experts, is retained on the equally determined historical principle that it crystallizes the essence of the best Le Marche wines and is immediately recognizable to both indigenous farmers, who would presumably find a claret or hock-shaped bottle similarly "vulgar", and Masters of Wine.

Made from the same grapes (at least 80 per cent verdicchio to which up to 20 per cent Trebbiano and Malvasia grapes may be added) Verdicchio di Maremma, which is produced in the province of Arezzo, although having some of the characteristics of its more famous neighbour, has not so far enjoyed similar acclaim. Nevertheless, the few producers of this soft, straw-coloured wine are beginning to find success outside their immediate markets in the wider export world.

Produced on the opposite side of the same territory, as it extends beyond the slopes of the Conero mountain behind the port of Ancona on the Adriatic, Rosso Conero is a red wine which, it is claimed, enjoyed the praise of Pliny the Elder in his *Naturalis Historia*, published in the first century AD, which honoured the mountain for the goodness of its red wines.

Made from the Montepulciano grape with not more than 15 per cent of the Sangiovese grape, Rosso Conero has been appreciated for its ruby vigour and dryness. An admirable complement to many of the typical pasta dishes of Le Marche, it goes equally well with roast, game or grilled meats.

Another increasingly popular light ruby wine of the region, Rosso Piceno, production is only a little behind that of verdicchio. It is produced in many parts of the inland and coastal hills of the three southern provinces of Le Marche. Coming from Sangiovese and Montepulciano grapes (in the ratio of 60-40) a superior Rosso Piceno from small areas south along the coast from Grottole and inland to Ascoli (unlike the common Rosso Piceno) not released for consumption before November 1 of the year after production.

Headed by the illustrious Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, the wines of Le Marche are making a slow, but sure, impression on wine-lovers overseas. Modern production techniques are being happily wedded to past qualities in a way which discerning Italians in the wine trade find suitably reassuring.

Signor Gianni Castagno, managing director of Italvini, one of the first United Kingdom shippers to specialise exclusively in importing Italian wines into Britain and who has seen his business grow impressively to a £2m turnover in five years, confirms this view.

He says: "We are not in a hurry. We have to wait for people to come to the wine—it will not go to them. Le Marche wines are winning more and more new friends. But we must never forget to strike a balance between the business desire for huge overnight success and the traditions of wine production."

Tenacious growers whose vineyards were destroyed

When mature it is a full wine, harmonious and velvety on the palate. It must not be confused with Hungarian Tokay with which it has nothing in common. The ground cultivated vineyards in Friuli extends over 250,000 acres, and the major wine-producing area is between Gorizia on the Yugoslav frontier and Udine, particularly for red wines.

I doubt whether you will find these wines on the lists of restaurants in Britain. The only time I have had a comprehensive tasting was on a journey from the Lake of Garda via the Dolomites and Carnic Alps to Venice. They are mostly exported to Northern Europe except for a tiny volume swallowed in the regions of their birth. If you are holidaying in these parts there should be no problems.

Cabernet wines are noted for their garnet red colour when young and for their full bouquet, which has been likened to the perfume of raspberries. They are mature within three years and are perfect after eight.

Tenacious growers whose vineyards were destroyed

by Rupert Denny

Since Italy is the most prolific wine producer, it is not surprising that there are some excellent wines of individual character little known to British consumers. In a land where the vine flourishes from Alpine valleys in the far north for 700 miles to Sicilian wineclands on the Mediterranean, the variety of wine produced is remarkable.

This applies particularly to northern regions such as Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the Trentino-Alto Adige, where delicate nuances of taste gladden the hearts of good wine addicts. Friuli, a wine producer since prehistoric days, is a magnificent land, bordered by the Alpine range which runs from Gorizia to the Livorno River.

The wine-growers are frontiersmen, tenacious and hardworking; a people who in past generations have known many masters from Byzantine Turks to Hungarians. They have become accustomed to fighting invaders. The people of Friuli have twice endured the devastation of their vineyards in the past 50 years as a result of wars. Cultivation of the vine continued unabated through all these disasters. It is as if vine growing gave them the courage to face adversity.

Not only the Italians, but tourists visiting the region to savour its wines have come to regard Friuli as the never-never land, but it is still there and as real as Tuscany. The vines have been replaced and cared for after each invasion. The most famous wine of Friuli is the Picolit, for long considered one of the great, a dessert wine renowned in Paris and Vienna. Unfortunately, its production is limited as a result of the floral-abortion disease. Treviso's oenological institute is trying to find a remedy.

The next most important wine which has won a reputation for quality is the Tocai, a wine suitable for aging. It is a dry wine with a slight bitter after-taste.

White wines worth remembering

Among the white wines worth remembering apart from Tocai and Picolit is Verduzzo, a bright golden yellow wine with the aroma of sweet almonds, which can be dry as well as sweetish on the palate. It is generally regarded as a superior table wine. Then there is Romandolo, a fuller and markedly stronger wine. These are both protected and labelled.

Grape trellises on mountains

Journeying in the Trentino-Alto Adige region one is struck by the straight rows of grape trellises that cover the mountain slopes for miles and spread out in the valleys below. Most vines produced in this area have a particular smoothness and pleasant bouquet. Red wines predominate, although there is a good production of high quality white wine.

If the Trentino produces more wine than the Alto

Adige, the latter is finer in quality. I would draw attention to good red wines such as Caldaro, Santa Maddalena, Marzemino and Val d'Adige. There are some palatable rose wines, too, but the white wines are better—wines like Terlan, Termen and Vini Sassi have been allowed to dry before being pressed. Each of these wines has a charm all its own.

Between Bolzano and Merano lies a beautiful landscape producing a variety of wines. Most of the growers are not Italian, but aggressively German, who rely largely on the Riesling for the refreshing wines they produce in their well-kept vineyards. Though snow crowns the peaks, the climate is mild enough in the valleys for oranges to grow beside black and white grapes.

The Alto Adige is a land where, as in Sicily, a large number of small growers produce their wines to be marketed by cooperatives.

Bumper measures are gaining favour

respect is generally attributed to pioneer work by the importers of Italian wine. Certainly the growth in sales of larger sized bottles of wine has coincided with the steep percentage increases in sales of Italian wines in the United Kingdom. The attraction seems to be a combination of inexpensive prices and a change in wine drinking habits.

Move into big bottle sector

With a per capita consumption rate among the lowest in Europe, Britons were long considered to prefer their wine in small quantities but of superior quality. This reputation stemmed from a tax structure based on the degree of alcohol rather than the value of the wine, which meant there was little difference in price between different grades. Traditional suppliers like France and Germany concentrated more on the well established fine wine drinkers rather than on bulk sales. Recently, however, they too have moved into the big bottle sector.

Although still heavily concentrated around London and the South-east, there is a rapidly growing number of British vin ordinaire drinkers. The relaxation in both off and on licences has brought wine into the ordinary café and supermarket. Entry to the European Economic Community, the adoption, at least in part, of the value-added-tax structure for alcoholic drinks, and inclusive holidays abroad at popular prices have all had their effect in increasing sales of table wines.

The Italian wine producers, when they made their first serious drive for British sales in 1971 and 1972, saw that there was now more scope for wines of the inexpensive everyday variety than had been fully exploited by their up-market competitors.

They chose from the start to export to Britain the larger-sized bottles which

accepted. The trend was aided by bottle and packaging shortages during record sales periods in 1972 and 1973 and by rapid inflation in food and other household goods which meant that everyday wines compared more favourably in price than ever before.

Today, as a scrutiny of any of the big volume London wine shop windows will show, there is a bewildering range of sizes. There are 90 cl bottles, litres, magnums, 1½ litres and 200 cl bottles, some of which have the sizes marked on the label and some which do not.

Initially there was considerable scepticism from established sectors of the trade, who did not believe that the British Chancellor of the Exchequer would allow the boom in volume consumption to continue. Many retailers did not like handling the different sized and shaped bottles because of wastage if breakages occurred and the difficulties of finding room on their shelves.

However, as customers' demands continued to climb for inexpensive wine for parties, for drinking in restaurants and for an ever-widening variety of social functions in Britain, the new sizes quickly became

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The official mark of quality

Happy result of the English connexion

by Margaret Costa

Sicily, to every English wine-drinker, must mean Marsala. It is just over 200 years since an Englishman, John Woodhouse, first developed the formula by which the thin, acid, dry white wines of the region were transformed into the rich, dark amber nectar whose popularity in England outstripped for more than a century even that of port, sherry and madeira.

Marsala, like port and madeira and the sweet, heavily-fortified sherries of the time, was specifically an Englishman's creation, and it is still "the Englishman's wine" to the Sicilians. It was, of course, cheaper than its formidable rivals and it still has that advantage today; more important, since the dramatic rise in price of the better ports and sherries, it is, in its price range, often markedly superior.

Suitable in every way

John Woodhouse, whose entrepreneurial skills had previously encompassed herring-kipping in the Isle of Man and led him to Sicily to buy raw materials for the manufacture of chemicals, was the first to realize that the Marsala region, situated on very nearly the same latitude as Madeira and Jersey, was in every way suited to the production of wines to the English taste.

The local wines then being produced there were very similar to those used in making the great fortified wines of Spain and Portugal and a branch of the Woodhouse family was already in the port trade.

The formula settled upon by Woodhouse was not unlike that used in making Madeira. The wine was flavoured, coloured and sweetened by the addition of *vino cotto* (a grape) juice syrup, reduced by long cooking until it has acquired the bitter-sweet taste of caramel—and fortified by the addition of enough brandy made from the local grapes to bring it up to the same strength as most sherries.

Marsala is still sold under the names of Woodhouse,

Ingham and Whitaker, the three Englishmen who put the wine on the map, although, for more than a century, the firms that bear their names have been taken over by the Italian firm of Florio, now part of the Cinzano empire. Only two independent Italian firms, Pellegrino and Rallo, now produce high-quality wines.

The chief market for Marsala today is, of course, Italy itself where it is still drunk in large quantities and where it also enjoys a preeminent role in the kitchen. Not only is Marsala immensely popular as a dessert and also widely regarded as a nourishing between-meals snack, but Marsala is used in cooking in many ways: in sauces, sweets, meat and game dishes; to give richness to risottos, for instance, to round out any sharpness in a tomato sauce or to glaze vegetables. It gives this richness without adding too much sweetness for its appetizing bitterness prevents it from cloying.

We all make *cabalone* in Britain and *scallopine alla Marsala* is one of the great standbys of every Italian restaurant but the wine itself still deserves today the far greater popularity that it used to enjoy in the heyday of the sweet, rich, sunny wines that so suit our grey climate.

There are three categories of wine being produced at Marsala: *fine*, *superiore* and *vergine*. Little of the *fine* which makes up to 80 per cent of the production is exported to England. But the *superiore*, matured by law for two years, when dry makes an excellent aperitif, when sweet a delicious after-dinner drink, much lighter than other fortified wines—and not so hard on the liver.

Another great virtue of Marsala is that it keeps in good condition after opening longer than almost any other wine—much longer than a vintage port or a good sherry.

One of the finest of all the drier *superiore* wines now available is Marsala *Alagna*, shipped by Giordano, of Windmill Street, London, W1. Golden and round, it stands comparison with a good dry, amontillado sherry and costs only a little over £1 a bottle.

An excellent but sweeter *superiore* is Rallo Garibaldi—the name Garibaldi



Gathering grapes in Sardinia in September.

is an indication of a light but sweet wine—shipped by Edouard Robinson of SW19. Harrods has Italvini's *Vecchia Riserva 1880*, an exquisite solera wine, not unlike an old madeira, which should confound and delight friends after a dinner party.

Matured for five years

For such a purpose it is hard to imagine a better bargain than this, at £2.75. *Vergine*—and the delightfully named *extra vergine* Marsalas—are perhaps the wines that most deserve to regain their popularity. Fortified but unsweetened, matured for at least five years and often much longer, nuttily scented, deep flavoured and delicate with only an echo of sweetness in that bitter appetizing finish, they make a splendid aperitif for little more than half the price of an equally good sherry. Serve them with a flourish and serve them chilled. A fine example is Ingham's *vergine* Marsala from Findlater Mackie Todd in Wigmore Street, London, W1 (about £1.25).

But Sicily has a 2,000-year history of viticulture which

makes Marsala a very recent phenomenon. Today, with the lavish outpouring of government money, not only on new vineyards, wineries and bottling plants but also on quality control and research, the island is gradually being transformed from the dustbowl created by centuries of poverty and neglect to the "garden of the Mediterranean" that the Greek sailors called it.

Vines are now cultivated in many different parts of the island, wherever the mountains give them a foothold. Trapani produced good table wine, as does Messina, the region between Ragusa and Gela, and the fertile volcanic soil of the foothills of Etna.

These are wines that are good, even sometimes very good, but not great. Raymond Postgate called them "good plain wines"—a compliment from the author of *The Plain Man's Guide to Wine*—and the description still fits; they are commendably undemanding wines for easy, everyday drinking at a friendly undemanding price.

If you have drunk an anonymous carafe or house wine—*rosso* or *bianco*—in an Italian restaurant recently, you may well have tasted and enjoyed Saturno

which can be found in many supermarkets, chains at well under £1 a bottle.

It is a fresh wine and has a near relation, from the same cooperative near Trapani, in the big two-litre bottles of white and red *drepano*, which at about £1.40 a bottle, must be the best of all wines for young parties where they will be drained to the last drop; they fade quickly once the bottles have been opened.

The most outstanding Sicilian table wines are surely the red, white and *rosé* *regaleali* range from the vineyards of the Contessa d'Almerita, high in the hills of the Palermo province. Imported by Italvini of Wembley, Middlesex, and selling at about £1.20 a bottle, they are not yet, alas, widely distributed. (Stonehaven Wines of Headley Down, Bordon, Hampshire have them.)

They are wines of real quality. All have a slight brisk invigorating piquance. The white is outstandingly clean, fresh and exhilarating, qualities rare in a white wine from a hot climate. The *rosato*, one of the best I have ever tasted, is dark, lighter than many southern wines, is deliciously fruity. Like the Marsalas, they are remarkable value for money.

Est! Bacchanalian bliss

by John Paterson

The wines of the Lazio region are the wines of Rome, for the ancient vineyards on the slopes of the Alban Hills are within a half-hour drive of the city centre. This is the Castelli Romani district—the land of the Roman castles. Farther north, and close to Orvieto, are the vineyards around the Lake Bolsena. Another notable vineyard district is Aprilia, to the south-east of Rome, where vines have been planted on the reclaimed Pontine marshes.

The soil is volcanic and very fertile. Wine production exceeds 100 million gallons a year, and a dozen wines have been awarded the DOC mark of quality.

Frascati is the famous wine of the Castelli Romani. It can be dry, fairly sweet or, when made from grapes affected by *muffa nobile*—the noble rot—even sweeter. This last style is known as *cannellino*. Dry *frascati* is a golden wine with great fragrance.

Bishop gave the name

Est! Est! Est!!! is what the men of Montefiascone decided to call their wine after it was discovered by a German bishop on his way from Augsburg to Rome in 1110. He sent his steward on ahead to mark Est! (this is it) on the door of any inn where the wine was acceptable, and Est! Est! Est! where it was outstanding.

At Montefiascone, in the hills over Lake Bolsena, the steward found the wine so much to his liking that he ecstatically chalked Est! Est! Est!!! on the inn door. The bishop concurred and settled down to a retirement of bacchanalian bliss.

But the straw coloured wine of Montefiascone is not all that outstanding among the good wines of Lazio, and might merit no more than a one or two Est rating if the bishop and his steward were able to look around again today. Perhaps other wines have improved since 1110. Nevertheless it is a pleasant wine in either its dry or sweet versions, soft in flavour and attractively perfumed. Like *frascati*, the dry is on good terms with fish.

The fish course is also the one at which to pour the white wine of Albano, back in the Castelli Romani. Colli Albani is light in body, amber in colour, and has a fresh aroma. The wines of Colli Lanuvii near by are similar in style but tend to be rather heavier. Both districts produce *annabile* and sweet versions in addition to dry, but it is the dry that are distinctive.

Another notable vineyard in the vicinity of Lake Albano is Marino. Here the vines are planted in hillside terraces overlooking the Pope's summer palace at Castelgandolfo. Again, the best of the wines is the dry white; it has an appetizing yellow colour and is soft on the tongue with a trace of spiciness. Marino is a wine that goes with a great variety of savoury dishes, excluding pungent, overbearing flavours.

Montecompatri and Velletri are among other producers of typical light Castelli Romani whites. Montecompatri's product is especially noteworthy, with a remarkable fresh, fragrant flavour and bouquet.

Much of the red wine of Lazio is made from the local *cesanese* grape, and is usually named after it, generally linking the grape name with the name of a village or district. It is capable of producing robust red wines which can assume great flavour and smoothness with age. A good bottle is well worth stowing away for a year or two.

Sweet and dry red produced

Cesanese del Piglio, from the Frosinone district to the south of Rome, is one of the most successful of these reds. It is brilliantly coloured with an intense flowery bouquet and an agreeably bitter after-taste.

The Italian practice of making dry and sweet versions of almost everything does not exclude red wines. The market in the United Kingdom for sweet red fortified wines is not a keen one, but for those to whom such a drink has an appeal there is, among others, the *oddbaccato* version of Cesanese di Olevano, which has a big following among the citizens of Rome. Not only is it decidedly sweet but it can, when young, be *petillant*.

The Aprilia vineyards, where wine production started after the Second

World War, is another producer of meritorious reds. Among the variety of grapes used is the merlot, which plays an important part in putting body into the reds of the district. Merlot di Aprilia is a sturdy red that harmonizes pleasantly with full-flavoured pasta dishes.

Aprilia also makes a *rosé*, Sangiovese di Aprilia, which is worth inspection by those who find that run-of-the-mill pink wines taste insipid. It is dry and clean with a fruity bouquet and flavour.

It is a district of Lazio in which, for a change, the red and even the *rosé* rather outshine the whites. The white *Trebbiano di Aprilia* is pale in colour, and flavour, though it does have a good grapy aroma. A quaffing, warm-weather wine rather than a mealtime wine.

Lazio's most distinctive dessert wine is Aleatico di Gradoli, made in vineyards to the west of Lake Bolsena. Ruby in colour, it is pressed from grapes that have been partly dried by the sun. At its best it has an almost raisin-like flavour. Although it is unfortified, the wine generally has an alcohol content above the average table wine, and can be heady stuff. It is splendid with fresh fruit, particularly if chilled.

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Happy days from Catullus to Churchill

by Joyce Rackham

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from the Valtravigna can-
tina, there is a velvety 1971
Valpolicella, which is full of
fruit and very stylish; it
costs about £1.10. Enotria's
1970 valpolicella, from the
house of Fabiano, is some-
what drier, softer on the
palate, and similarly priced.

If you are served game or
even a juicy roast in the
Veneto, you are likely to be
offered amaro recoto, a
very powerful red wine
made by a system perfected
in that region. At Bolla's
cellars we watched a team
of women placing the ripest
bunches of grapes on wood-
en trays which had bamboo
slats to allow air to circulate.
These are left until the next
January or February, for
their juice to concentrate,
then vinified, maturing for
three to four years.

Some Italian connoisseurs
like to drink recoto—there
is also a sweet version—at
the end of a meal instead
of a liqueur. "Much healthier
than whisky", Signor Gio-
vanni Bertani claimed when
we tasted some in his can-
tina.

Also good is Domini's
Soave Lamberli, a classico,
very dry and sprightly, at
£1.07. I liked the slightly
fuller Soave Ricasoli, which
is made by the Cantina
Sociale at Valtravigna. This
is shipped by Cook Russell,
who also lists a good range
from the same Cantina, of
lighter DOC Veneto wines
at about £1.50 for a 1½ litre
flagon.

Another range in bumper
bottles, comes from Italvini,
Veronello, from the Canine
cooperative. In addition to the
soave, valpolicella and bar-
dolino, there is a trebbiano
made from one of the
grapes used for soave. This
is golden, very dry and
rather earthy. The compa-
nion rodnella, produced
from the grapes of that
name cultivated on the east-
ern slopes of Lake Garda, is
fruitier than the local roses,
and fuller. I would serve it
well chilled for Sunday
brunch or summer supper
parties. These two cost
about 90p a litre bottle.

"Olive groves and famous
vineyards form a worthy
frame to this picturesque
resort", says a tourist leaf-
let describing Bardolino, the
lakeside village on Garda,
where you can refresh your-

self after your swim with
wine from the hilly slopes
which overlook the lake.
The vines grow beside
peach orchards, and the dis-
tant snow-capped foothills
of the Dolomites add to the
beauty of the region. Bar-
dolino is a most appealing,
lively wine, which tends to
get overshadowed by the
better-known valpolicella.
They are both produced
from blends of the same
grape varieties, but the vol-
canic soil of the Valpolicella
area, which reaches to the
city limits of Verona,
results in a slightly fuller,
often marginally sweeter
wine. There are some very
pleasant bardolinos to be
found, and Ruffo, shipped
by Eurowin of Southall, is
very light and lively, costing
about 80p. At about £1 the
clean, brilliant ruby bar-
dolino from Bertani, a fine
traditional firm there, is
delectably fruity and ele-
gant.

Flying into Venice in early
October, we were in time
for a leisurely luncheon at
one of the Venetians' own
favourite trattorie. Alla
Madonna—a delightful start
to a vineyard tour at vin-
tage time. Yet our spirits
were dampened by the sad-
den states which scowled over
La Sereissima. The mood
soon passed, for our host
ensured the swift arrival of
some well-chilled soave.

This dry and delicate
Venetian blonde wine epitom-
izes the style of the
region, being as effective an
aperitif as it is an ideal
companion to the seafood
salami, smoked hams and
irresistible crusty bread.

On that day, we were
drinking soave bolla—the
1972 is available here—and
a justly successful res-
taurant wine, the attractive
valpolicella, from the same
house. These and most of
the wines of their category
sell for £1.15 to £1.30
(sometimes less if you shop
around). Although there is
plenty of much cheaper
venet wine in bumper fla-
gons and flasks, the price
gap is justified in the dis-
tinctive differences of style,
body and general quality.

Soave classico comes from
a strictly delimited area
around the pretty old town
of Soave, not far from
Verona. Trellised vines
grow beneath its ancient
walls and, at vintage time,
you can sniff the heady
scent of fermenting wine
and drive beside lorries
laden with newly-picked
grapes.

Soave is a happy travel-
ler; among the better ones

on the market is the Clas-
sico 1971 from the Cantina
Masi, a distinguished pro-
ducer, shipped by R.
Trestini, and listed by
Stonehaven Wines of Head-
ley Down at £1.05. Another
elegant wine from the
Cantina Sociale di Soave (a
cooperative of more than 500
small growers), shipped by
Rigby and Evans, costs
about £1.15.

Amarone Recioto Bertani
1964 costs about £2.20, and
Hedges and Butcher lists the
Bolla 1967 at £2.50. They
are majestic wines but not
recommended to those with
weak heads for their alcohol
content exceeds 15% (com-
pared to Valpolicella's 12%
to 12.5%).

Of equal interest to con-
noisseurs, and the innova-
tion of Masi's oenologist, is
Campo Fiorin, a subtle flow-
ery dry red wine, fine-
balanced, which is made in
the traditional valpolicella
manner, and fermented
again with the amaro
must be of the next vintage.
It costs about £1.90.

If you have ever driven
through that Arcadian coun-
tryside where Palladian
villas abound, you have
probably found refresh-
ment by quaffing litres of
the delicious golden
wine called prosecco from
the region of Conegliano.
This lively market town is
an important wine centre,
and a halt on a most invit-
ing bacchic itinerary sig-
nposted as La Strada del
Vino Bianco. Selected
locandas and small inns pro-
mote the prosecco and with
it serve home-produced
salami, smoked hams and
irresistible crusty bread.
Enotria ship the medium-dry
sparkling Carpeno Malvolti,
which has a fragrant hon-
eyed bouquet, and the spu-
mante brut, a methode
champenoise wine which is
one of the best made in
Italy. It costs about £2, and
the prosecco about £1.50.

Finally three newcomers,
reasonably priced at under
£1 a bottle, from the cellars
of the Castello di Bevilac-
qua (which, oddly enough,
means "drink water") at
Legnago, south of Verona,
and shipped by G. Bravo of
Shaftesbury Avenue. They
are Quarto Vecchio, Pinot
Grigio, a robust dry golden
wine, with a distinctly
earthy, ashy taste. It would
make an excellent aperitif.
Try it Italian fashion, with
young parmesan or some
similar cheese and raw
broad beans. There is also a
soft and grapey Merlot
1963, and a most interesting
Cabernet 1970, rich in
colour with good bouquet
and worth laying down.

The French are increasingly unfaithful...

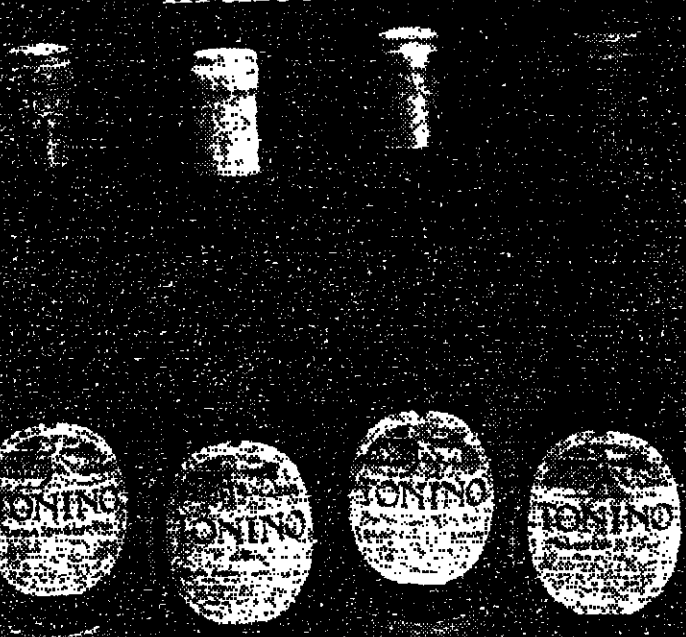
When a Frenchman's taste strays
from the straight and narrow, there could be
a full-bodied Italian reason.



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With the picturesque village in the background, vines of the Ruffino vineyards at Zano are sprayed for mildew (top left). Above left: vats dated 1881 provide decorative surroundings for the vineyard's chianti to age. Top right: modern processing at the Carpano establishment in Turin and (above right) machinery at work on the old Tuscan craft of making flasks.

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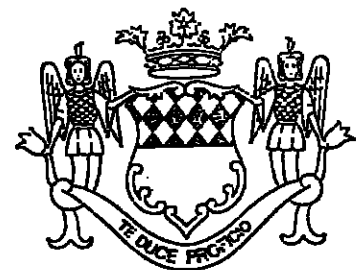
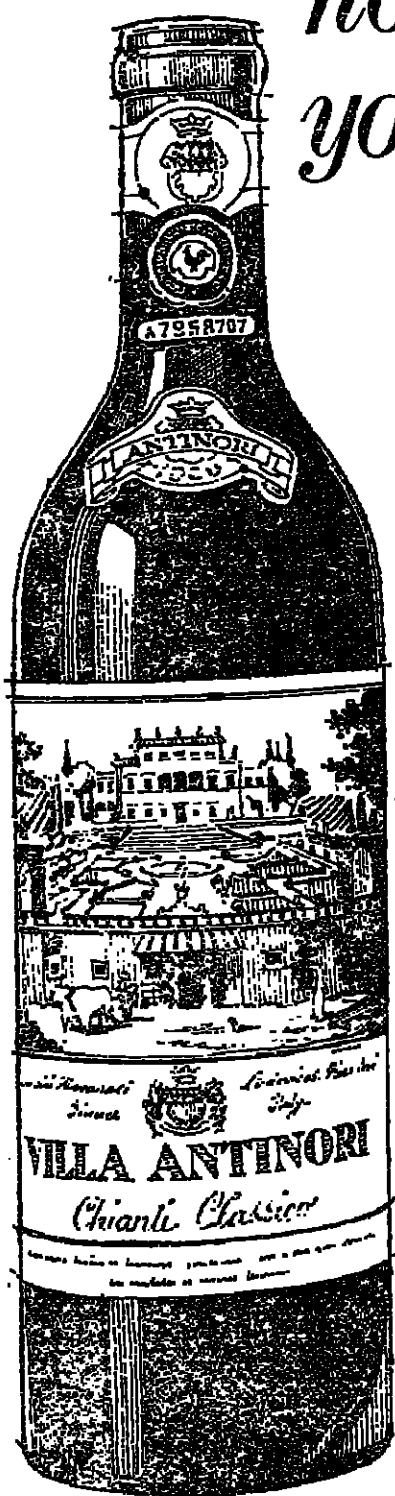
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Reputation soured by fakes

by Joyce Rackham

When Michelangelo was living in Rome, homesick for his beloved Florence, friends and relations used to send him parcels of wine and food from Tuscany. He wrote to a relative saying: "I would much prefer two flasks of chianti to a present of eight shirts." Centuries have passed and his favourite is now often a person's first acquaintance with Italian wine.

Before the present strict DOC (controlled denomination of origin) laws were enforced, the amount of fake chianti exported far exceeded production of the genuine wine, and bore little resemblance to it. So memories of chianti as a rather heavy, rough sort of wine still prejudice many people against it and even connoisseurs give it less respect than it deserves.

Italian gourmets and oenophiles take as much pleasure in tasting and comparing chiantis from different vintages, and proprietors of the rarer, older wines, do in the contemplation of great clarets and burgundies. In the Palazzo Gaddi in Florence (and sometimes in Milan) they hold auctions of the rarer, older wines; the longevity and distinction of the chianti classico, as well as the great Tuscan wines of Montalcino and Montepulciano, are reflected in the high prices they make.

Of course they are bottles to be savoured on special occasions. For carefree drinking, few red wines are as pleasant as the young chianti from the traditional straw-bound flask. On very hot days some of my Florentine friends even add ice and a slice of lemon or orange.

For years the leading producers have put their better wines into bordeaux-style bottles and some would like to discontinue the use of flasks, with the maximum (or family size), called the *miniera chiantigiana*, replacing the larger ones. But public demand still decides otherwise. The flask (*fiasco* in Italian) has been produced by craftsmen since medieval times, and the master glassmakers have even formed La Congrada

del Fiasco, a society to preserve it.

They argue their cause passionately, quoting passages from Boccaccio and Leonardo's notebooks, and showing a Ghirlandaio fresco in which he painted one. But the main difficulty is economic: each flask, which must be bound by hand, costs 300 lire. Some very unappealing, plastic-bound ones are used for cheap wines, and a small Florentine grocer pointed to them in scorn and declared: "Non è estetico."

Wine lists in the better restaurants in Tuscany may be divided into sections for Chianti Classico, from the heart of the zone, covering about 175,000 acres between Florence and Siena, followed by chiantis from the Colli Fiorentini; Colli Senesi (near Siena); Colli Aretini (near Arezzo) and Colli Pisani (province of Pisa and other lesser districts. Such a list is produced for guests at the Park Hotel, a converted palazzo just outside Siena. As in many such places, the *cognoscenti* ask for the house wine, a vivacious young chianti, a special treat, after lunch or dinner, is to be taken down to the cellars, which are used not only for storage, but for making the wine.

With the antipasto they serve a fine and distinctive dry golden vernaccia, from the hill town of San Gimignano (not to be confused with that potent vernaccia in Sardinia). It is dry enough to accompany fish, but a restaurant in San Gimignano uses it to flavour a saffron-ratified risotto. None is exported here.

From wine now available in British shops, one in the traditional flask which offers particularly good value is Peter Dominici's Montepulciano from the Corsini estates. A selection of a dozen of the Chianti Classico proved generally of consistent quality with subtle differences of style and maturity. Among the 1971s, Antinori's outstanding Santa Cristina is well-balanced, with notable bouquet, while Bigli, from Fincigliars, is drier, less mature and very fruity. Stracchini (shipper G. Bravio) needs a year or two to mature—a good buy at

about £1.15—the others listed are in the £1.30 to £1.60 range. The 1971 Castelgreve, from Enotria Wines, has splendid bouquet and plenty of body, while Bibbiano, from Italvini, is more elusively flavoured and most elegant—a number of good Italian restaurants list it. One of the 1970s to note is castello di brodio, from the great Riccardi estate, living up to its reputation by its depth of flavour and fine balance—it still needs three to five years to reach its best. Another is villa antinori 1970, a softer wine, while a third, the drier vicchinaggio, from Clode and Baker, is full-bodied, and well-made. From Hedges and Butler comes Ruffino Riserva Ducale 1969, very robust and smooth, and the 1968 Tizzano, from André Simon Wines, has splendid colour.

Although few Tuscan white wines have particular distinction (there is no "white chianti" as such) the delicate dry Villa Antinori Bianco and Brolio's slightly fuller Albia are making the best—they cost about £1.30. New on the market are some very interesting wines from the Tuscan Maremma, shipped by Hunt and Braithwaite. From the same shipper comes Sassicaia, a deep crimson wine of great vivacity, which shows what can be achieved by careful vinification of the cabernet grape on Tuscan soil; its price is about £2.40.

Vino Nobile di Montepulciano from the vineyards around the historic Senese hill town, has been celebrated for centuries. Dry, with a hint of violets in its bouquet, it lives up to its resonant name. Two 1970s now available, at about £1.20 are Enotria's Vecchia Cantina, and Passati, shipped by Belloni. They will make splendid drinking within a year or so. Brunello, made from the grape of that name from the slopes around another fascinating Senese hill town, Montalcino, without doubt one of the most majestic Italian wines, and has great longevity.

At the famous estate Fattoria dei Barbi, I talked to the proprietor De Colombini, one of the more distinguished men in Italian oenology. "We are very traditional here," he said. "We respect nature, and the effects of the seasons, even phases of the moon. We give our wines as little 'treatment' as possible, and let them breathe in cask from the earliest possible moment."

If you buy a bottle of brunello, keep it at room temperature for 24 hours before serving, and decant it some hours beforehand. Fattoria dei Barbi's Brunello 1969 is still at £3 a bottle—a remarkable bargain, for it costs much more in shops and restaurants in Italy.

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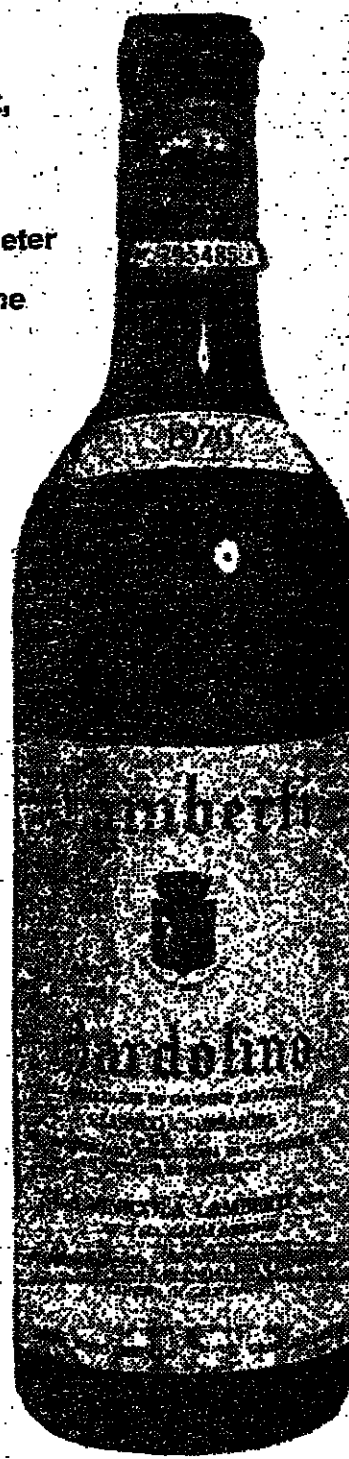
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Britain and US get a little of the best

by Philip Dallas

Broadly speaking, a good part of the best wine of Italy comes from Piedmont and not much of it is exported. Of the £5m worth of Italian wine imports into Britain in 1973 only £160,000 were supplied by Piedmont.

Of that figure most was made up of inexpensive young wines, bottled in the United Kingdom and sold through such distribution outlets as supermarkets and off-licences: "honest wine and almost entirely DOC appellations, controlled wine, but not great wine."

The estate-bottled Piedmont wine has over the past few years, become increasingly expensive. Even in Italy the customary retail price for a well aged cru runs from £2 to £5 a bottle and often more. It is therefore not surprising if the English connoisseur chooses a French wine he knows well when acquiring a vintage bottle.

Though Piedmont wines are often considered to be the Italian wines that have most in common with French wines, they are organically profoundly different. The French Cabernets, Merlots and, to a lesser extent, the Pinots (and the Italian ones, for that matter) are soft wines, whereas the Nebbiolo and the Barbera grapes, which make a large proportion of Piedmont wines, are harsh and tannic when young.

Fine French wines enjoy 18 months of maturing in small, new casks to pick up acidity and partially precipitate, before bottling at length in the bottle: the best of Piedmont wines can relax for two, five or even 10 years in enormous old barrels, where they precipitate almost all their sediment and dispose of their asperities.

Accordingly, where the English or French wine-lover requires considerable expert knowledge when he buys a crate of young claret to be sure that it will mature well, in Italy the wine-lover will patiently wait four or five or even more years for his preferred producer to market a vintage.

The price is high, but the producer has had all the time, the risks and the expense: the wine is bottled only when it reaches maturity and is ready to drink or to cellar for further aging. The producer at this late stage, and for the price he asks, can put on sale only a wine of the highest quality.

There are two great Piedmontese wines, the Nebbiolo and the Barbera. The latter gives the strong, full-bodied wine of the people and is the subject of many hearty drinking songs, but when chosen for selected gastronomic purposes, it is especially favoured for a warm room temperature even three days before they are to be sacrificed, then opened a few hours before serving so that their bouquet is fully released. If

be ignored by anyone who enjoys the pleasures of the table.

The Nebbiolo vine takes many forms, according to where it is cultivated. It is grown on the rolling hills of the Langhe, high in the Aosta valley, in the Novara hills and in the uplands of the Valtellina—this last being in Lombardy. The Barbera and Barbaresco are usually considered the best Nebbiolo wines, though Gattinara is often given equal status.

Barolo must have 13° of alcoholic content, unchaptalised according to the law, but in good years a Barolo can rise to a natural 14° or 15°. It is a great full-bodied wine that, if aged in casks for five years, is labelled *riserva speciale*.

The Barbaresco is more delicate, less tannic and therefore requires less being kept in the wood and one in the bottle is usually sufficient, but sometimes, to make it harmonious, it needs up to four years in the wood, when it may be labelled *riserva speciale*. In both cases a long bottle-life can be expected.

All these well aged Piedmont wines require careful handling (though usually there is little sediment) and embottlement. They should be brought from the cellar to a warm room temperature even three days before they are to be sacrificed, then opened a few hours before serving so that their bouquet is fully released. If

a Barolo or any other aged Piedmont red is served cold, it is just like drinking warm champagne—sheer waste.

The Nebbiolo denomination wine is less distinguished than the Barolo and Barbaresco but, as with the Barbera, when made from selected grapes by one of the renowned producers and aged in the wood it becomes a fine dinner wine. Also, like the Barbera (and the equally enjoyable Piedmont Dolcetto), it is fairly inexpensive and produced in large quantities; whereas the far smaller Barolo and Barbaresco delimited zones are already producing almost as much as they are legally permitted to do and their future, accordingly, lies in ever greater quality.

The Aosta valley Nebbiolo reds have a small production. Little of it seems to get past Turin without being opened. The Donnas is produced at 2,000ft, above Aosta, and the Carema—which one finds more often—round Ivrea.

They do not have the body or strength of the south Piedmont wines from the Langhe, but make up for this with the delicacy of their mountain bouquets and, when duly aged two years in the wood and two in the bottle, according to DOC law, they are a delight that occurs too rarely in one's life.

The Novara hill wines include Gattinara, Ghemme,

Boca, Fara, Sizzano, Lessona and Spanna. They are all elegant wines with a notable bouquet. They are all produced in small quantities and are Nebbiolo mixed, in varying proportions, with Bonarda, which attenuates the tannic asperities of the former.

Often Italian wines are denigrated as a whole. But wine, like art, requires considerable discrimination. It also requires trust in the producers.

The wine-loving reader reasonably may ask: "How is it there are all these fine and expensive Italian wines, of which I scarcely have even heard the names before?" The answer is difficult.

Certainly the best Italian producers have importers in Britain and the United States even if they sell little. Perhaps we are talking about Italian wines five years too soon? After all, there has been no concerted effort by Italy to make them well known.

But they will, almost certainly, be so by 1980 when, with the expected shortfall in world wine production, wine-lovers will be broadening their horizons in a search not only for genuine, reliable table wines but also for fine aged-in-the-wood wines with which to stock their cellars.

Philip Dallas is the author of *Italian Wines* (Faber, 1974).

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Famous sparklers are coming into their own

by Pamela Vandýke Price

Until recently Italian sparkling wines tended to be thought of as purely holiday pleasures to be sipped on vine-wreathed terraces, perhaps as the accompaniment to ice cream. True, one of the delectable light sponge cakes or biscuits for which many of the Italian towns have their own recipes.

Even asti, where the most famous sparkling wines are made, tended to be by-passed by those priding themselves as wine connoisseurs because the Moscato grape, from which asti is made, possesses an obvious spicy fragrance and a fruity charm that can seem too grapey for anyone seeking a wholly dry sparkling wine. However, the Italian sparkling wines are coming into their own and drinkers are appreciating their special charms.

The Moscato grape, high in natural sugar, presents problems when the fermentation takes place so that, if the ester is made exactly according to the champagne process, bottles may break and the wine be lost in the

violence of the fermentation. There is one house in Asti which does make its wine according to the champagne method still, but the others follow variations on a method, evolved by the house of Gancia, one of the most famous, over a century ago, studied in Rheims and believed it possible to make a fine sparkling wine in Piedmont.

The Gancia method, which involves arresting the fermentation by cooling before the wine is complete and then allowing it to continue, which is a flash wine is required, is a combination and individual development of the champagne and charmat methods.

Each establishment, such as those of Riccadonna, Cora, Martini, Bosca and others, has its individual house variations and styles of wine. Gancia, however, which pioneered this method, had such a success with its wine and huge demand that it now has to make it from wines brought in from outside the Asti region and simply calls it Gancia. A dry version of Gancia has recently been introduced to

the United Kingdom market.

Asti Martini, a fine wine, is partnered in north Italy by Martini's Gran Spumante, made from the white Pinot grape, according to the champagne method, in another region; Cinzano, in addition to Asti Cinzano, makes its Brut by the charmat method, and both are making steady progress in the United Kingdom market. The only problem with Asti Martini is that the demand usually exceeds the supply.

Asti Bosca is probably the only asti bearing a vintage date on its label, the asti producers generally regarding their wine as best when drunk young and fresh and therefore requiring no date on the label. All asti is produced subject to strict controls, and the growers' associations issue the stock label for the wine, which shows San Secondo, the patron saint of the town.

In addition to these two already well-known northern wines, agreeable sparkling wines or fairly *pezzanti* wines are made throughout Italy, perhaps the most curious being Lambrusco, from Emilia-Romagna. This,

a dry red wine, has quite a violent sparkle when first poured, but the effervescence soon subsides, although the wine remains slightly prickly on the palate to the end.

It is curious to many foreigners but it is particularly recommended with *compane*, the stuffed pig's trotter, a speciality of Modena, which is also delicious as a type of salami.

Then there is the Recioto Nodari, from the Veneto, so called because it is the "ears" (reciotti) or outside clusters of the grapes only that are picked from the bunches, which will be ripe because of their greater exposure to the sun. The slightly sweet version is definitely a fun wine, smelling strongly of raspberries, even though some are so, it is most enjoyable with a fruity pudding or between times on a hot day.

Few Italian sparkling wines are bone dry but their fruitiness should not delude drinkers into considering them all as sweet, even though some are so. Their fruitiness can be an asset when they are chosen to partner certain rather

unctuous Italian recipes, such as *vitello tonnato*, or an hors d'oeuvre or first course containing mayonnaise or a predominance of egg, which they "cut" most agreeably.

With cakes, puddings and ices they are admirable. What makes them good choices for summer parties and afternoon wedding receptions. They are pleasant picnic wines and good buffet drinks, especially if the food includes a selection of salami and typically Italian salads. Because they are still modest in price, they offer a new range of wines for enjoyment and exploration both to those who know Italy and those who have to explore the pleasures of Italian gastronomy at long distance.

Visitors to northern Italy should try to make a detour to see the remarkable wine museum at Pessione near Turin where Martini & Rossi have their headquarters and also make their sparkling wine, and to Mizza Monferato, the Barbaresco establishment which also makes a fine "sparkler" and has another interesting wine museum.

Regulations enhance quality

by Dr Bruno Roncarati

It has been said time and time again that Italy is not only the first country in the world on account of the quantity of wine produced but also of the wide variety of types made in what Sophocles defined, almost 2,500 years ago, as "the favourite land of Bacchus". Since this has been so throughout the centuries, it was natural that in modern times such a privileged situation should be exploited in a more professional way. To be able to do so it was felt for decades that the first and most important action to be taken was to regulate and control production in as strict a way as possible to enhance the quality of Italian wines and establish their deserved reputation.

So a long-awaited set of regulations governing the wine production was set out with Presidential Decree 930 on July 12, 1963, published three days later in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* 188, the official publication of the Italian Government. This was an important milestone in the history of the Italian wine industry and the effects were soon to be felt.

Basically, the 1963 law divides the wines into two categories: *denominazione di origine* into three categories: *semplice* or plain, *controllata* or controlled and *garantita* or controlled and guaranteed.

To the first category, known in short as DOS, belong the wines with a geographical name usually identifiable with a large area, often as extensive as a whole region. The geographical name is frequently accompanied by that of a particular grape variety, so that we have a denomination such as Barbera del Piemonte, to define a red wine made in Piedmont from Barbera grapes, or Rosso del Salento for a red wine made in Salento, a large area in the region of Puglia in southern Italy.

Within the second category the *controllata*, known as DOC, fall the wines whose restricted area of production is specifically delimited and whose production is strictly controlled throughout the whole process and even after, until the wine is consumed by the public.

The production of each of these wines is rigorously limited and for every

denomination a presidential decree is issued, stating clearly the basic conditions for the wine to qualify. These are the permitted grape varieties, the location of the vineyards to the sun, the maximum quantity of grapes allowed per hectare, the maximum quantity of wine obtainable, the minimum alcohol content of the wine.

All this means that, even within a restricted production area, a vineyard planted on unsuitable soil in a shaded or mountainous area cannot be entered in the Land Register of Vineyards, since the grapes obtainable would not be of sufficiently high standard to guarantee the production of quality wine.

The limitation in the quantity of grapes obtained from a hectare is to discourage the producer from exploiting the vines forcing them to artificially grow more to the detriment of quality. In cases where the set maximum is exceeded, the whole production is disqualified and not just the excess as in some other countries. This seems more logical since it is obvious that the purpose of limiting the quantity so that quality benefits would otherwise be defeated.

The same criteria are used for the quantity of wine produced and for the alcoholic degree which is a direct consequence of the percentage of sugar in the grapes. Therefore, if the quantity of wine produced exceeds the permitted maximum or the alcoholic content falls short of the minimum set by the regulations, the whole production is considered unsuitable and the wine cannot qualify for the controlled denomination of origin.

remain common to all of them, each production is regulated differently, bearing in mind not only the natural environment so variable in a country such as Italy, but also the local usages and traditional wine-making habits.

A controlled denomination of origin is sometimes applicable to more than one wine produced in an area. A typical example is that of the DOC Ottava Pavese, named after an area in Lombardy, south of the river Po. As such, this denomination is used to define a wine of deep red colour, slightly tannic, made from Barbera, Croatina and uva rara.

In the event of the wine being made only with grapes of a particular group, an additional specification is added to the denomination of origin and this is the name of the grape variety in question, such as Pinot, Riesling and Cortese. More frequently, though, a DOC applies only to one wine named after a village or a small area. This is the case of Barolo and Chianti respectively.

Additional specifications are applicable when the wines are aged for a set period of time and become entitled to the wording *vecchio* (old) *riserva* (reserve) or *riserva speciale* (special reserve) or defined as *classico* in certain cases when a smaller part of the production area is known as *zona classica* because of historic reasons, or to the word *superiore* on account of the selected grapes giving a higher alcoholic content.

So far there are some 160 denominations of origin and it is likely that there will be a few more later on. Some will be eventually upgraded to the third category, the DOCG, the *controlata* or *garantita*, but there will be only a few to confine to this privileged class.

The DOCG is not only a classification reserved for wines of great value, it also implies a much more rigid control through compulsory bottling at source and offers a guarantee of the quality of the wine, the so-called *contrassegno di stato*.

Getting to know the family

continued from page 1

the more familiar Italian wines. The big groups into which brewery takeovers and mergers have now largely concentrated our wine-shipping, have all set up special Italian departments, or send teams of buyers specially to Italy.

It is a measure of the new confidence in the consistent quality of Italian wines that one such group has now turned to Italy, after trying Austria and then Hungary, for the red, white and rosé wines it sells in litre bottles under a brand name. Such wines must be easy and ready to drink but, above all, they must taste the same when bought this month as last month, and whether bought from this supermarket or from that, lest the brand name becomes discredited.

It is a very different market from that in which first-growth clarets and vintage ports are sold, but it is one which furnishes a high pro-

fir for the shipper and a lot of pleasure for a lot of people—it provides the wines that men and women of modest means can enjoy every day.

It is wines such as these, as well as the more famous and finer wines that I mentioned at the beginning of this article, that contribute to what has been described in the Wine and Spirit Association's latest economic survey as "the explosive growth of Italian imports"—up by 425 per cent in the latest two years on record, compared with France's 60 per cent.

This is partly due to the effects of the DOC laws; partly to an export drive by the Italian Government to sell more Italian wines; but largely because we have learnt to like them.

The author is the first Englishman to win the Bologna Trophy, awarded for the best wine of Italy, which was translated into Italian. He is also a cavaliere of the Italian Order of Merit.

Bitter sweet—and big business

continued from page 1

Sweet Italian vermouths, often unfairly bypassed by many foreigners, are drunk in vast quantities in their homeland, where they provide a refreshing and stimulating aperitif for anyone who has done a day of hard physical work.

All vermouth should be served cool, but those who put ice in it should remember that they are further weakening a drink that is only just above table wine strength anyway. For a long drink, soda can be added and a twist of lemon and/or orange zest is usually pleasing. People who are not used to thinking of vermouth as a drink by itself will find that not only is it an economic beverage but that the different styles of the various houses provide endless interest and variation.

As vermouth is a wine it will not last indefinitely after the bottle has been opened: a fortnight to three

weeks is generally sufficient for a dry Italian to remain in prime condition, the biancos and sweet vermouths being able to withstand the action of the atmosphere for several weeks longer.

Even if you have not finished the bottle, vermouth is one of the most useful wines for the kitchen; the aromatic character makes it an ideal addition to certain sauces for moistening stiffs or potes, and a spoonful in a court bouillon or the liquid in which fish is to be poached makes a surprising and delicious difference.

Most of the Italian vermouth establishments, well come visitors and have well organized facilities for showing them round, the huge wooden vats and blending tanks being impressive to see and an enhancement of the enjoyment of Italian vermouth—one of the oldest and still one of the best wines in the world.

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Italian wines

a Special Report



Getting to know the family

by Cyril Ray

Italy produces more wine than any other country, even France. About a quarter of the world's wine is Italian.

Wine is grown throughout the length of that long leg of land that is Italy. By French-speaking Italians in the Val d'Aosta, in latitudes north of those in which claret is grown; by German-speaking Italians in the Alto Adige, which is north of the Benelux; and by swarthy Sicilians on the same latitude as Athens.

It is grown at a couple of thousand feet in the hills of Piedmont and at sea level on Sardinian shores and by the Adriatic. It is grown from such classic French vines as Cabernet and Merlot and Pinot, from the German as well as the Italian Riesling, and from vines known only in Italy, but known ever since Roman times—according to Edward Hyams, historian of the wine—perhaps even from Etruscan or from Greco-Roman times.

So there is a vast variety of Italian wines, white and red, sweet and dry, still and sparkling. I recall that when I wrote a book on the subject nearly 10 years ago, I listed more than 600 different names; Philip Dallas's much more recent and indispensable *Italian Wines* includes some that I missed.

Yet I do not think it fanciful to suggest that between the wines of Italy, there is a sort of family resemblance, however slight it may sometimes be, just as there is a family resemblance, or at any rate a likeness, in the people, even between Venetians and Neapolitans, hotly though both

might sometimes deny it. The Italians of Garibaldi's time fought for a feeling of national identity that was real to them and is real to us.

In the same way that Italy is a country easy to love, and the Italian people easy to like, so the quality common to Italian wines is that they are easy to drink. Just as Italian cooking at its best is simpler and less subtle than the French *haute cuisine*, or *cuisine raffinée*, more akin to French country cooking in its closeness to the local soil, its simplicity and its dependence on seasonability, its freshness from sea or pastures, from field and from frying pan, so Italian wines are less subtle—less "intellectual", to use the word that Edmund Penning-Rowell has applied to claret—than the greatest wines of France.

Which is far from saying that I have not enjoyed fine wines in Italy. Barolo and Gattinara from Piedmont, and the riserva Chianti of Tuscany (among which the legendary Brunello di Montalcino is entitled to class itself) are capable of aging magnificently, first in wood—for more years than comparable French wines would be accorded—and then in bottle. They are splendidly full of character when they have done so, fit companions for the vast Florentine beefsteaks of the region.

There have been bottles of Soave and of Verdicchio that have been charmingly delicate accompaniments to the fish-fries of Venice, and I have sat long after dinner in Elban cafes over the island's Aleatico, as dark and as sweet as port, but not so cloying, and smelling deliciously of the Moscato grape.

To mention the Moscato grape is to remind oneself how good an Asti Spumante can be—not artificially and not heavily sweet, but sweet simply from the grape. It derives from—best drunk with a fig or a peach fresh from the tree.

All these, even the finest of them, are straightforward wines, easy to know—wines that wear their hearts on their sleeves, so to speak—which is what is sometimes said of the Italians themselves, and which I consider a compliment. It means that they are eager to be liked—

continued on page 11

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Bitter sweet—and big business

by Pamela Vandyke Price
Wine Correspondent

Vermouth, often briefly defined as "aromatized wine" can be and often is made wherever wine is made. References to wines of this kind exist from the earliest records of drinking. Wines were used with herbs and spices mixed into them as digestives, curative and preventive medicines from at least the time Hippocrates, "father of medicine".

The stillrooms of the great estates, smaller country houses and, more important, the laboratories of the great religious establishments all compounded beverages of this kind, but those that were most reputed tended to come from regions in which a suitable local wine was available and where the supply of spices, herbs and berries was good.

Piedmont, in north Italy, was admirably situated as regards both requirements, for the plants of the foothills of the Italian Alps were both varied and excellent for semi-medicinal purposes, and the region was also able to secure rare spices from the Middle and Far East as trade with these areas opened up in the late Middle Ages.

The first vermouth was sold commercially in 1786 by Antonino Benedetto Carpano, who had a wine bar in Turin, near the stock exchange. Drinks were individually made up for customers according to the mixture each required, and Carpano soon found that increasing numbers were ordering his personal recipe for vermouth. He experimented with great success and in 1870 the Carpano bar, frequented by brokers and businessmen, was filled with people discussing the afternoon's fall of shares by a point and a half.

A customer, ordering his required mix, used Piedmont broking jargon to express a wish for a drink that had "a point and a half" of bitterness—and this was the origin of Punt

e Mes, Carpano's most famous product. The label has never been changed.

Other concerns in north Italy were quick to realize the potential of vermouth. Martini & Rossi, founded about 1840 at Pessione, near Turin, replaced a much older concern owned by a Signor Agnel, the grandfather of Giovanni Agnelli, founder of Fiat. The Cinzano set up as master distillers in Turin in 1757 but trace their origins back to the sixteenth century. These two family concerns and Carpano are only a few of the numerous Italian vermouth houses doing big business today.

Each establishment has its own house style for a range of vermouths, principally bianco, in which Cinzano is the dominating name in export markets—dry Italian and sweet Italian. Huge quantities of vermouth are consumed in Italy, mostly as straight drinks, as vermouth was originally drunk, although certain mixtures, such as the Americano (Campari bitters and sweet Italian), or Count Rossi (half and half dry and sweet) are also popular.

The most popular method of making Italian vermouth is by infusion of the herbs and other ingredients, but maceration and distillation are other methods, sometimes two or even all three being involved.

The Piedmont wines are no longer sufficient to supply the vermouth houses, and vast quantities of wine are brought to Piedmont for use, the quality of this wine and its supervised maturation being carefully controlled. Indeed, it is the great vermouth houses which have in many instances been able to revive other Italian wine regions and rehabilitate certain traditional Italian wines. For example, Cinzano now owns the Florio establishment (which in its turn comprises Ingham and Whittaker) in Marsala. Sicily and Apulia are only two of the areas that have been strongly influenced by the

need for good wine to be made into vermouth.

Many people still erroneously suppose that Italian vermouth is invariably sweet. Dry martini—the world's most famous cocktail and once the subject of a court case in Britain where the judge ruled that it was so universally understood that it needed no capital letters—was made with Martini dry Italian vermouth first.

White vermouth or bianco is not as dry as many drinkers possibly suppose and generally agreeably aromatic. Noilly Prat, in their Italian house, make one that is particularly redolent of nutmeg and spices. Dry Italian vermouth tends, generally, to be rather more full-bodied than dry French, as might be supposed from the fuller style of wines that go to make it and the different method of production, which does not involve the casks being exposed to the air during maturation as they are at Marseilles.

continued on page 11

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	Salary £	Proportion	Proportion taking national average as a base
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Head Porter	1,456	1.5	0.8
Staff Nurse	2,202	2	1.2
House Officer	2,538	2.5	1.4
Medical Assistant and Senior			
Hospital Medical Officer	5,910	6	3.3
Regional Medical Officer— administrative	10,596	10	5.9
Higher Directing Medical Officer—civil service	15,000	14.5	8.3
Full-time Consultant with A + merit award	15,947	15	8.8

Note: In Tables I and II proportions are calculated to the nearest 0.5, following Simon's practice. In Table III more precise data makes it possible to calculate proportions to 0.1.

The two

All incomes expressed in £s sterling)

Fleet

President Ford cannot rely on luck a second time in Indo-China



Mr Ford with a Vietnamese or allow a rescue operation in Saigon

It provides in section 30 of Public Law 933644 (the 1973 Foreign Aid Authorization Bill) as follows:

"No funds authorized or appropriated under this or any other law may be expended to finance military or paramilitary operations by the United States in or over Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia."

That law, too, was enacted in March, 1973.

It is true, of course, that all these laws were, effectively, satellites of the main war powers limitation, resolution, and that they were all driven by gradually intensifying opposition, in the Senate particularly, to the war in Vietnam. The effort began in the late

Despite the strong foreign challenge, the only non-British couple to make the first three in either competition were the Norwegians Espen and Kirsten Salberg, who came second in the Latin-American. The Salbergs live in London, where Espen is

Down in the dungeon-like dressing rooms an Australian girl with startling orange hair was packing her petticoats into a cotton bag shaped like a huge squidgy cushion. She thought ballroom dancing was fighting a losing battle with the disco-queques, but had been surprised by the interest shown in her demonstrations on the boat to England.

Pegey Spencer—who comments for the BBC and runs a school in Penge—is a stout defender of big band music and dancing cheek-to-cheek. For the past two years she has been to Monaco to teach Prince Rainier and his children to dance. "I think Princess Grace was anxious to get them up to her standard," she said. Mrs Spencer insisted that her royal pupils

had been most enthusiastic, but then they will probably get more mileage out of a Viennese waltz than the rest of us.

A garden contractor from

soft weeds. (He says Sheila Black mentioned his machetes two years ago and he sold a

cudes his letter appealingly: "I have been a garden contractor for 20 years which has taught me not to offer gratuitous advice."
 On the site itself, I took advantage of the better weather and put in about eight hours at the weekend, though this is a false figure because at least a third of the time is taken up by burling chads with neighbouring holders. I have now cleared about 10 fens—rather than an average of the plot—and am moving to the difficult area of the mysterious mounds, which will be slower going.
 I have planned the sugar peas, a row of lezards and a few small ones. I know it is sure to rain, but the rain is sure to fall, but they were left over from a planing in the garden and my long-established neighbour is equally loose with his parsings. An ace cultivator.
 He was talking of his expected yield in hundredweights. I said, "Loudly he was sure to mean," and the old and painful silent film trick of treading on my rake so that the handle hit me in the face.

Today's bewildering sign was photographed by Major J. J. Ventham of the Royal Signals.

across the floor. The men wore braided catsuits with frilly jabots and bright bow ties. The women favoured interpretations of the torrid Latin-American theme in vivid, colour-coordinated outfits. Some were green and orange with plenty of feathers and glitter. Some appeared to have dyed their hair to match. There were no competitors from the South American countries and a man from Come Dancing thought they probably took a dim view of such proceedings.

At 17, Austin Dunne and Ann Gibson from Dublin said they were the youngest couple competing. Miss Gibson wore a home-made thigh-length black suit with fringing and loved the Latin-American dances but was less fond of the traditional ballroom dancing. "It's a bit old-fashioned and the powder-puff dresses are so hot."

She also revealed that most dancers never wear tights, but make-up their legs instead. "Ladders show on the television and someone's heel might catch the nylon and drag you across the floor," she explained, giggling at the prospect.

From Japan, Susio Tanaka from Japan, her layers of shocking pink cut spreading across three seats. She was very hot, having just quickstepped her way into the final of the Ten Dance (for this competitors must perform five ballroom dances in addition to the Latin

American). She explained that ballroom dancing is now very popular in Japan—there were 13 Japanese couples in the Ten Towns, though her husband have now moved to England.

Despite the strong foreign challenge, the only non-British couple to make the first three in either competition were the Norwegians Espen and Kirsten Salberg, who came second in the men's American. The Salbergs live in London, where Espen is a hairdresser.

Down in the dungeon-like dressing rooms an Australian girl with startling orange hair was packing her petticoats into a cotton bag shaped like a huge squidgy cushion. She thought ballroom dancing was fighting a losing battle with the disco. "I love it," but had been criticised by the interest shown in her demonstrations on the radio to England.

Peggy Spencer—who comments for the BBC and runs a school in Penge—is a stout defender of big band music and dancing cheek-to-cheek. For the last two years she has been to Monte Carlo with Prince and Princess Grace and their children to dance. "I think Princess Grace was anxious to get them up to her standard", she said. Mrs Spencer insisted that her royal pupils had been most enthusiastic, but then they will probably get more mileage out of a Viennese waltz than the rest of us.

A "Trespassers" will be prosecuted sign will never seem fearsome again after reading this one from Israel: "The Torah gravely prohibits mixed bathing on the beaches. Any person violating this provision is an evil man and has no place in the afterworld."

Fun

Tourists watched with envy yesterday as a group of young Israeli soldiers, who were blazoned "I'm Terrific" were conducted round Westminster Abbey by the Dean. The party was led by the disc jockey Jimmy Savile and made up of members of the National Association of Youth Clubs, of which he is vice-president. They were taken round the Royal Chapel and into the Jerusalem Chapel and other rooms normally closed to the public.

Savile referred to the group as his "team". He had chosen them for a "fun and happiness weekend" because of their service to the community or to their club, or because of difficult home circumstances.

Savile took them to a strange assortment of places. The group watched police dogs and, in training, looked over a jumbo jet, toured London's international telephone exchanges and had tea at the top of the Post Office Tower. They also saw a £75 a night hotel-suite and, by

way of antidote, accompanied Savile to a hostel for down-and-outs in Lamberth.

Angus Ogilvy, NAYC's president, joined them at a party on Saturday night. They all agreed they were having a wonderful time, and were proud that they only time any of them had got lost was at the down-and-out's hostel, when an old man fell out of bed and one 16-year-old had been left behind helping him back in. Not having any money, and having missed the coach, he had to beg his way back to headquarters and said Savile, qualified for a special award.

Smoke signal

Have the cigarette vending machine operators leaked a Budget secret? Packets of cigarettes now costing 37p to 38p a packet seem likely to be increased in price to at least 40p, because some vending machines have already been changed.

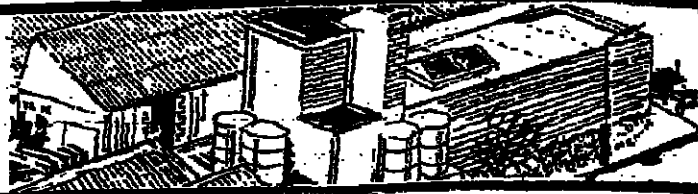
At a London hotel, where a colleague stays regularly, packets of 16 cigarettes have been selling at 30p, requiring the insertion into the machine of three 10p pieces. Now the machine has been altered to take four 10p pieces and for your money you get the same packet of 16 cigarettes, plus a 10p piece inside the cellophane wrapping.

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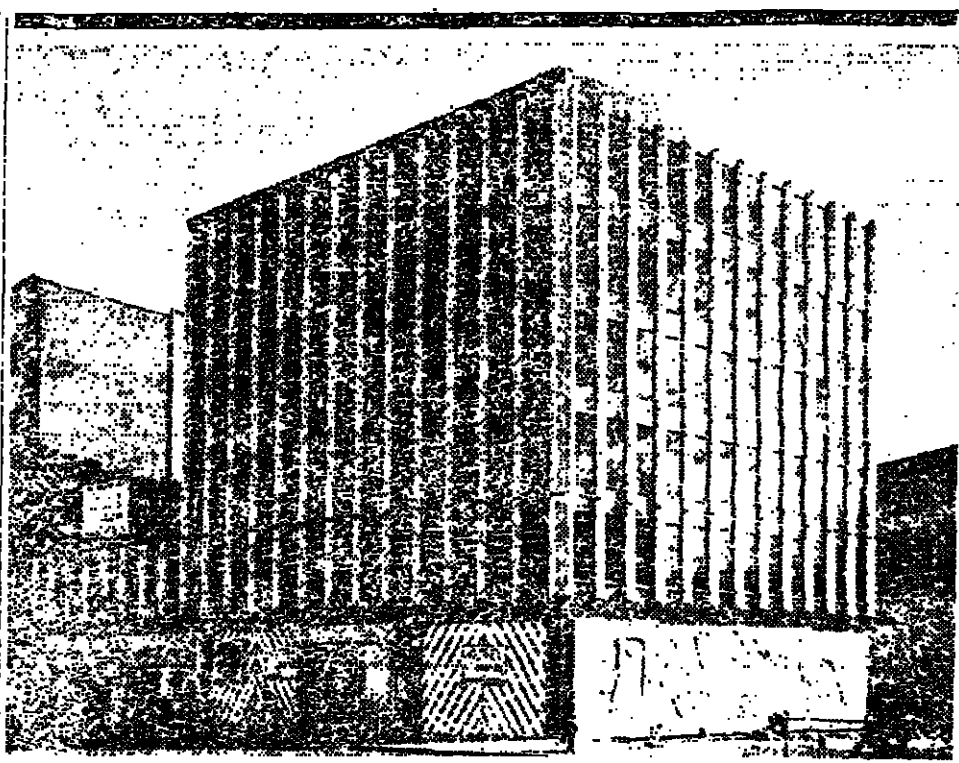
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Ormond House, Queen Victoria Street, MEPC's latest development in the City of London.

A scarcity of offices and rising rents in Scotland's main cities is forecast in a report issued by the Glasgow office of Richard Ellis. It says that Government policies on taxing development gains over the past two years have brought new property development to a halt in Scotland.

The situation is particularly severe in Glasgow and Edinburgh, where, although several schemes are getting under way there are few signs of new schemes doing so.

In Glasgow the report estimates that about 350,000 sq ft is under construction, but of that 100,000 sq ft is for owner occupation and another 100,000 sq ft is prelet, leaving no more than 150,000 sq ft of space in modern buildings available.

At an absorption rate that has been running at just under 30,000 sq ft a month, the report says, all the existing space in the city will be let by the end of the year, and with demand buoyant rents must rise.

It points out that in Glasgow rents have increased in prime locations in some cases by as much as 100 per cent over the past 12 months, from a rental of £1.50 a sq ft to the £2.50 to £3 mark.

In air-conditioned offices £3.50 a sq ft is now quite feasible. A similar situation exists in Edinburgh, where rents have risen sharply to £2.50 to £3.50 a sq ft.

In Aberdeen most new office space is let or prelet at rents of at least £2.50 a sq ft.

In contrast to the Scottish report it is interesting to see that where office space is relatively more abundant more persuasive letting methods have to be used.

In Norwich, Eastern Suffolk Property Holdings is offering its new scheme at 44-48 Magdalen Street at the exceptionally low initial rent of £1 a sq ft. That is for the first year and thereafter the rent would rise by

Offices in Scotland cost more

25p a sq ft each year up to a total of £2 a sq ft for the fifth year. Then it would be subject to an open market review in accordance with the five-yearly reviews in the general terms of the 25-year lease.

The building is a mixture of old and new and has been put forward for a European Architectural Heritage Year award.

The front is listed as being of architectural and historic interest. Restoration and renovation has been carried out.

The rear part is new and the whole building provides a total of about 30,000 sq ft. Architects for the scheme were Rothermel Cooke and Edwards and letting is through Healey and Baker and Churston Heard and Co. of London, and Knight Benjamin, of Norwich.

In Manchester last week Maybrook House, in Deansgate, was topped-out and is due for completion in April, 1976. The scheme is being carried out by Maybrook Properties and is a mixed 10-storey development, roughly C-shaped, with a basement showroom, a supermarket of about 11,500 sq ft, let to MacFisheries, and other shops on the ground floor, and five upper storeys providing 48,288 sq ft of lettable office area.

When completed the scheme will have a development value of £2m. Design is by Phillips Cutler Phillips Troy, of West Bromwich, and letting is through Grimley and Son, of Birmingham.

In London last week, to mark the official opening of Ormond

House, the MEPC development in Queen Victoria Street, Mr Peter Apker, managing director, unveiled a relief mural on the western side.

More than 50ft long and composed of 36 individual panels each weighing over half a ton, the mural, entitled "The Growth of the City", was designed and produced by six students from Battersea College of Art and Building. For their work each was presented with a bursary for further study overseas.

Ormond House has 11,200 sq ft net of offices above shops and showrooms on the ground and first floors. Architects for the scheme were Stone Toms and Partners and the letting agents are Jones Lang Wootton.

On the Continent work has started on an office development in Antwerp by Nationale Immobiliën Belegingsmaatschappij NV, an investment company. The building in Noordlaan, is due for completion in August, 1976, and will provide about 13,000 sq m of offices. Letting is through Bernard Thorpe and G. de Wandelaar, SA.

In Rotterdam the Fenchurch Property Group's new building in Wijnhaven has been completed and letting is in an advanced stage. International Factors Nederland NV, a subsidiary of the Amro and Mees and Hope Banks, and C. M. G. Nederland BV, a subsidiary of CMG (Computer Management Group), of Croydon, Surrey, have taken most of the space and negotiations are in hand for the rest.

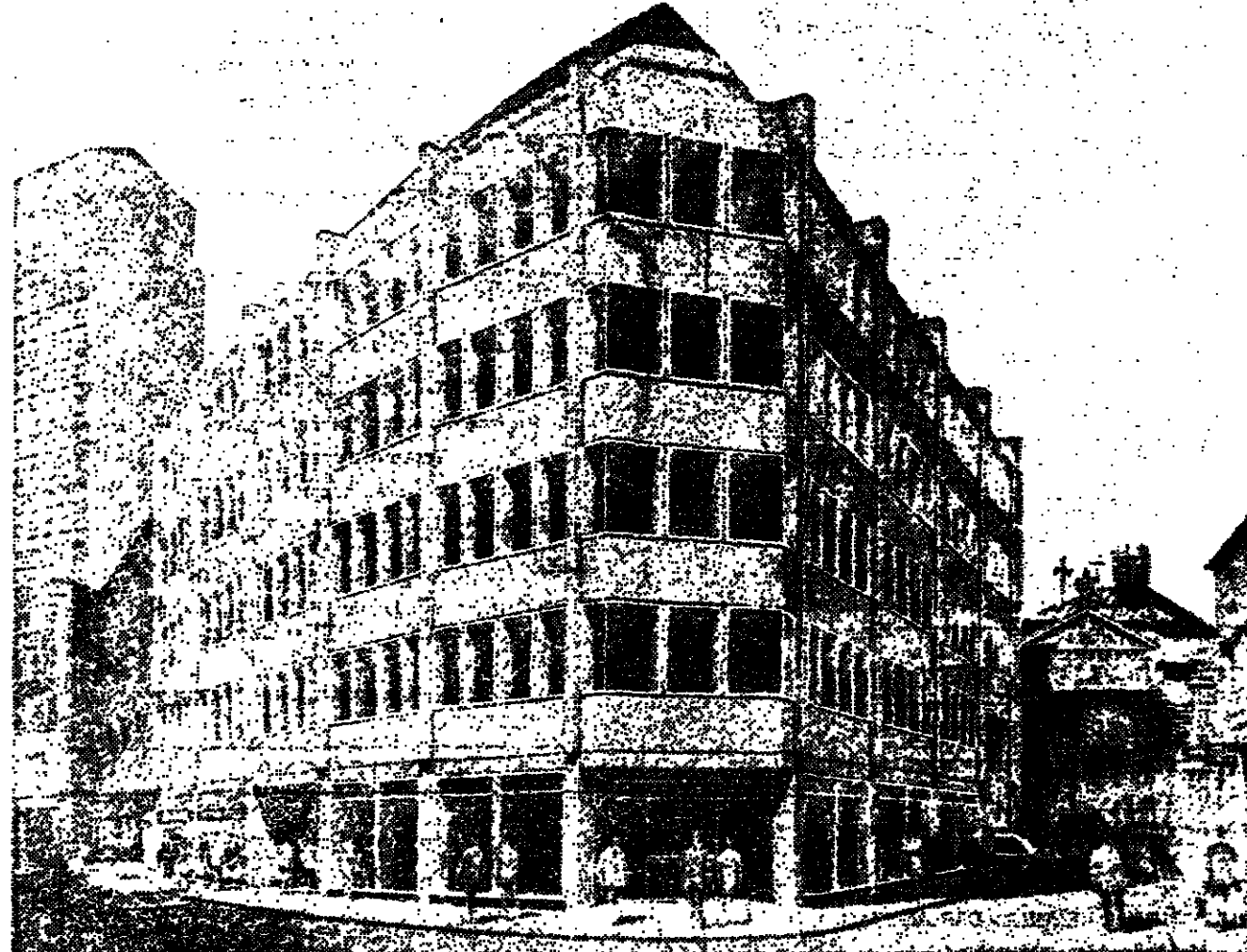
The building of 3,750 sq m, was designed by Jan Brouwer Associates, BV, of The Hague, and Cotton, Ballard and Blow, of London.

Boyd, Riddell and Partners were concerned in the purchase of the site and are letting agents with M. I. Van Engelen and Zoon, of Amsterdam, and J. Schol, of Rotterdam.

Gerald Ely

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WEST EUROPE

Startling success of M Giscard's visit to Algeria enhances role of France in Third World

From Charles Hargrove
Algiers, April 13

President Giscard d'Estaing's three-day state visit to Algeria, which ended yesterday, has opened a new page in relations between the two countries, and enhanced the position of France in North Africa and among the developing nations.

President Boumedienne has accepted "with pleasure" an invitation to visit Paris. No date has been fixed, but the visit may take place early next year.

Whether the Algerian leader will be received by the French population with the same jubilation and enthusiasm as Giscard d'Estaing met, especially at Constantine and Oran on Friday, is another matter.

The presence in France of large numbers of Algerian immigrants, many of whom are former settlers who fled from Algeria, will make his visit a distinctly more difficult psychological and political exercise. The French Government has succeeded in making the sting out of their grievances.

"It is not our job to meddle in the diplomacy of France," a leader of the settlers' associations declared today.

"But when Algeria is involved, and one goes out to shake hands with our executioners, then we can say we think this visit (of the French President) was important."

The startling success of M Giscard d'Estaing's visit, in spite of the two countries' long history of past relations, is a credit to his skill and statesmanship. His political courage in coming to Algeria was appreciated, and his bearing and his speeches struck the right note throughout.

The two presidents, one a reformist and liberal Frenchman, the other a proud, austere Muslim nationalist, are worlds apart in almost every way. But they have realism in common.

Giscard d'Estaing, who has established a good working relationship based on mutual respect and confidence. M Giscard d'Estaing told the press that they had agreed on a sort of draft agenda for the emergency conference, but he refused to give any details.

"Algeria is in favour of this conference on condition it also takes up other raw materials and the whole field of relations between developed and developing countries," he said. The conference could be the starting point of a new world economic order, in which the rights of

primary producers would be given their due.

M Giscard d'Estaing said it was essential to give "a new dimension" to Franco-Algerian economic cooperation, especially in engineering, steel production and television. The most concrete evidence of this cooperation is a decision to build a gas pipeline directly linking Algeria and France.

The French Government also undertook to improve the living and working conditions of the 200,000 Algerian nationals working in France, while the Algerian Government agreed to ease its restrictions on the repatriation of blocked funds of former French settlers, though it remains to be seen how far this happens in practice.

Both countries have obtained something which furthers their national interests. M Giscard d'Estaing now has, with the explicit backing of President Boumedienne, as the leader of the developing countries, a chance to play a key role in political and economic cooperation between Europe, Africa and the Arab world. Algeria has secured a guarantee of increased financial and technical assistance for its ambitious industrialization plans.

The Pope marries thirteen couples

Rome, April 13.—Thirteen young couples were married by Pope Paul in St Peter's today in an unprecedented ceremony, to celebrate Holy Year.

The couples, including two Brionis, Miss Mary Phillips and Mr James Sykes, both aged 22, were married before friends, well-wishers and about 30,000 Holy Year pilgrims who crammed the Basilica so tightly that many others had to be turned away.

It was believed to be the first time that a Pontiff had performed a wedding and Vatican ceremonial. Experts had to devise a special service.

Each couple was presented individually to the Pope who asked them if they were willing to be married "until death do you part" to which they replied, "Yes". He also blessed the rings and at the end gave his benediction to the couples.

During the ceremony the couples presented the Pope with bread, flowers and fruit and as each returned to their place they were warmly applauded by the congregation. Most of the brides wore white dresses but three of the Italian girls wore colourful regional costumes.

In his sermon the Pope asked the couples to create "an indissoluble link between each other".

Mr Sykes, a trainee teacher from Black Horse Road, Walthamstow, London, and his wife, a social worker from Newry,



The Pope receiving homage from a bride after her marriage.

go Down, Northern Ireland, met three years ago when studying at University College, Dublin.

Mr Sykes said he did not know why they had been chosen for the ceremony. "It was a big surprise. We are just ordinary people and not particularly holy," he said.

In his homily, the Pope urged the newlyweds to follow Christian teachings throughout their marriage and to look to Jesus as "the symbol of reciprocal love".

EEC working out food aid plan for Vietnam

From David Cross
Dublin, April 13

Foreign Ministers of the European Community today decided to work out an ambitious aid programme for South Vietnam, including the communist-held areas. The aid is expected to take the form of emergency provisions like cereals.

Agreement in principle to give assistance to all parts of the country emerged from an informal meeting of the ministers at a country house on the outskirts of Dublin. Details of the operation, which will involve a Community contribution as well as a coordinated effort by the individual member states, are to be worked out by the same ministers at one of the regular two-day sessions which begins in Luxembourg tomorrow.

On the political side, according to M Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister, the French Government has agreed that the departure of President Thieu was a precondition for any further negotiations between the various interested parties in Vietnam.

The only apparent note of discord among the Nine in their policy towards South-East Asia was general criticism of yesterday's French decision to formally recognize the regime of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian leader.

During the weekend of talks at Farmleigh, an eighteenth-century estate belonging to Lord Iveagh, the chairman of Guinness, the ministers also discussed other pressing foreign policy issues including NATO Portugal and the Middle East.

In spite of earlier differences among NATO member states, British officials are now confident that a summit meeting of heads of government of the alliance will take place in June to discuss the East-West security conference and other defence issues.

The Canadians, for example, who with the French, Greek and Dutch were originally no-keen on the summit idea, are now rallying to the majority view.

Out of respect for the forthcoming elections in Portugal the ministers were anxious not to be seen to be interfering in the internal policies of a NATO member state. Nevertheless, the hope was expressed that a democratic Portugal would emerge which could work alongside the rest of democratic Europe.

Yesterday's talks at Farmleigh centred on the long-term future of the Community itself and more specifically the ultimate goal of a European union. Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister who has been charged with the task of drawing up a report on this subject, made his view clear that sooner or later the Community must take concrete steps to move towards greater economic and monetary union if further integration is to be avoided.

This point is almost certain to figure in his final report due to be completed by the end of the year.

Bomb goes off under express but 5,500 live

Our Correspondent in Rome, April 13, reports that more than 1,500 passengers on a crack Italian express train escaped death when a bomb exploded under the train on an embankment in Tuscany last night. Had the attack succeeded it would have been Italy's second train disaster in nine months.

The Milan-Palermo-Freccia Sud (Southern Arrow) was running the embankment flank, the river Arno at top speed about midnight when a bomb blew up three feet from the track as the engine passed it.

The driver slammed on the emergency brake system and the train came to a halt with leaving the tracks. Police it was a "miracle" that 18-carriage train had not derailed and hurtled 100 feet down the river below.

The engine itself was damaged and an assistant driver, Antonio Fiorillo, aged 45, received superficial injuries. The driver, Signor Franco, was in a state of shock. "I was in a panic," he said. "I was in a panic."

From first reports it seems that the train stayed on the tracks thanks to the fact that the explosion created a break in the rail, rather than twisting it.

Traffic on the line was up for several hours as it was searched for possible bombs. A long list of bomb attacks on railways, including the one of 12 people and 48 when a bomb exploded on board the packed Express near Bologna last August.

Other bombs exploded nearby on the same stretch involved in last night's attack, but without causing any harm. A Tuscan fascist organization was responsible.

Congress recalls Italy's liberation

Rome, April 13.—The anniversary of the liberation of Italy was celebrated today by a congress jointly organized by the Communist Party and the British Institute of Italy.

Sir Guy Millard, British Ambassador to Italy, said the congress was a tribute to the Italian people and their experiences during the liberation of Italy.

Catholic challenge in Portuguese elections

From Nicholas Ashford
Lisbon, April 13

Portugal's powerful Roman Catholic Church made its first direct intervention in the country's election campaign this week by forbidding Catholics to vote for any party whose ideology was incompatible with the "Christian concept of man and his life in society".

The church also warned its followers against abstaining from the April 25 election for a constituent assembly or from casting blank votes.

A statement issued at the end of a meeting of Portuguese bishops at the country's holiest shrine of Fatima was read out today in church pulpits throughout the country. Although the statement did not mention any party by name, it was clearly aimed at the Communist Party and other atheist groups on the extreme left.

The Communist Party also came under vigorous attacks from several other parties. The Socialist leader, who warned Portuguese against adopting "a totalitarian type of socialism with dictatorial tendencies".

The statement by the church, issued less than two weeks before the country's first free elections for almost half a century, could have a significant effect on the way people vote. The population is predominantly Roman Catholic, and the church's influence is particularly strong in the conservative north of the country inhabited by about two-thirds of the six million electorate.

The conservative Centre Democratic Social Party, which has not considerable emphasis on religious support, for basic Christian principle is likely to benefit most from the church's intervention.

Franco regime rules out deals with communists

Madrid, April 13.—The Spanish Government has served notice that it will make no deals with the communists or any other political group it considers subversive.

"The Government is prepared for any type of political agreement and dialogue," said José Garcia Hernandez, the Minister of the Interior, said yesterday, "but it will neither make a deal nor establish contacts with subversive groups or the Communist Party."

On a weekend tour of Spain's restive northern provinces, Señor Garcia also said that those who expect the disappearance of General Franco to change things profoundly were "very much mistaken".

Señor Garcia, who is the first deputy of Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, and the man responsible for the police force of nearly 100,000

men, met local officials and made speeches in Pamplona and San Sebastián. The two towns have been the scene of huge industrial strikes and politically inspired street violence in the past months.

He declared: "The people as well as the Government are determined that the nation continue without any kind of order and evolution."

Señor Garcia, who is considered the strongest figure in the Cabinet apart from Señor Arias, issued a warning in his San Sebastián speech that such acts as the recent machinegun slaying of three policemen would never help Basque separatists or other outlawed organizations to achieve their aims.

"Subversion and terrorism have never given a people freedom," he said.

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"Subversion and terrorism have never given a people freedom," he said.

Woman wins Hamburg party leadership

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, April 13

Frau Helga Schuchardt, a 35-year-old engineer and member of the Bundestag, was elected chairman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) of Hamburg yesterday.

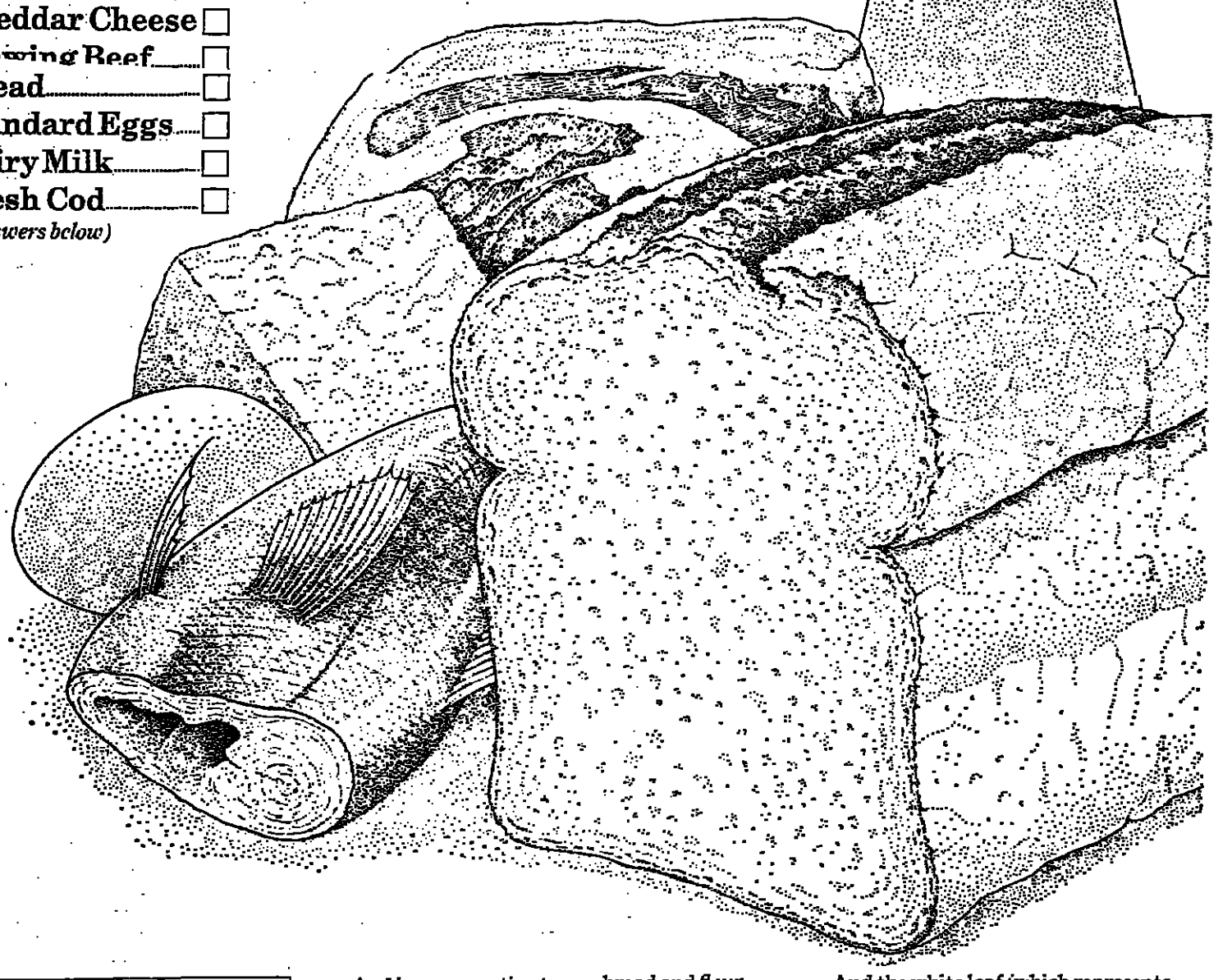
She is the first woman to head the Hamburg FDP. Considered a left winger within the party, she replaced Herr Hermann F. Arning who was chairman for six years and who had intended to carry on until 1977.

Under his chairmanship, the FDP in Hamburg increased its share of the vote in the last federal elections from 6.3 to 11.2 per cent and, in the Hamburg election last year, from 7.1 to 10.9 per cent.

A shoppers' value-for-money quiz to test your domestic expertise

Q. Penny for penny, which is the best protein buy?

- Cheddar Cheese ☐
Stewing Beef ☐
Bread ☐
Standard Eggs ☐
Dairy Milk ☐
Fresh Cod ☐
(Answers below)



- 6th Cod
5th Beef
4th Eggs
3rd Milk
2nd Cheese
1st Bread
Answers:

Yes, your 28 oz. loaf of bread is still the best protein buy on your shopping list. Does this surprise you? Perhaps you never actually considered bread as a very important source of protein in a balanced diet?

Protein, of course, is your prime body builder. But bread contributes other essentials, too. Like Calcium, for stronger bones. And Iron, vital to the blood stream. And the B Vitamins, essential for vitality.

To quote the National Food Survey (1972), bread's contribution to the average daily diet amounts to: Protein, 17%; Calcium, 13.4%; Iron, 17.7%; Niacin, 13.7%; Thiamine (Vitamin B1), 22.1%; Energy value, 14.4%.

And in comparative terms, bread and flour supply your daily diet with more thiamine and energy than any other food; only meat is higher as a source of protein, iron and niacin; only milk as a source of calcium.

How bread compares with other foods nutritionally

The table below illustrates in detail bread's comparative nutritional values when placed— for the same amount of money spent— against other typical food items on your shopping list.

All bread is good for you. But it's surprising how many people you meet who are almost entirely ignorant of these plain facts. To them, bread is something to be taken for granted.

And the white loaf (which represents over 80% of the bread bought in Britain), hardly ever gets a good word said for it. Yet, though certain minerals and vitamins have to be reduced in the milling of wheat into white flour, they're added to the flour after milling—as a legal requirement, in fact—to safeguard the nutrient level of your bread. (Brown and wholemeal, of course, are extremely good nutritionally, and may be chosen by people requiring extra roughage).

Whichever bread you choose, you're still getting one of the best protein and nutritional bargains on the market. Enjoy your loaf!

COMPARATIVE NUTRITIONAL VALUES

Just what you buy the following:	Protein (grams)	Calories	Calcium (mg.)	Iron (mg.)	Niacin (mg.)	Thiamine (mg.)
28 oz. white bread (wrapped and sliced)	61.6	1932	728.0	14.3	13.5	1.4
6.4 oz. cheddar cheese	46.1	768	1472.0	1.0	0.2	0.1
2.7 pints milk	42.3	893	1598.0	0.9	1.2	0.5
5.5 standard eggs	37.4	506	176.0	7.9	0.3	0.3
4 lb. 10 oz. old potatoes	29.4	1693	88.3	10.3	14.7	1.5
5.2 oz. stewing beef	28.6	260	7.8	6.3	7.2	0.1
5.1 oz. fresh cod	26.0	117	21.4	0.7	4.0	0.1
9.8 oz. butter	1.0	2215	39.2	0.5	trace	trace

Prices based on Department of Prices and Consumer Protection Information, and local enquiries, March 1975.

Bread: still the best food value in Britain

ISSUED BY THE FLOUR ADVISORY BUREAU.

Prisoners cause £70,000 damage in 18-hour riot

Rome, April 13.—Rioting caused thousands of pounds worth of damage before it was brought under control yesterday after an 18-hour riot in Santa Maria Maggiore in Venice.

Two of the 120 prisoners involved took over the area still holding out on of yesterday afternoon, were being watched by who surrounded the jail after Friday's violent rioting to first estimates, when £70,000 damage was done as prisoners stormed the jail setting fire to the roof and smashing windows.

The riot broke out on the of four prisoners, from a sentence in a Sardinia, to which they had been sent after similar disturbances in the prison.

The prison guards fled, as did about 50 other prisoners, waiting nothing to do with the protesters who demanded reforms in the penal system.

Negotiations between the rebels and judicial authorities broke down, but the police decided not to storm the prison. Instead they tried to starve the demonstrators out by refusing them food and drink.

The strategy worked. At lunchtime yesterday, most of the prisoners returned to the cells. Police said the rebels will be transferred to other penal institutions in Sicily and Sardinia—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

Mr Ford urged to fly all Americans out of Saigon immediately

San Francisco, April 13

Great congressional pressure is being put on President Ford to get the 6,000-odd Americans out of Saigon before the end of the year. Senator Jacob J. Goldwater, a senior Republican, has expressed the hope that the evacuation had already begun.

Senator Henry Jackson, the Democratic presidential candidate, said the American official presence ought to be cut down to a minimum and that the evacuation of the 6,000-odd Americans should be a top priority. He said the evacuation of the 6,000-odd Americans should be a top priority.

The success of the virtually complete withdrawal from Saigon this weekend has been hailed by the military. The evacuation of the 6,000-odd Americans should be a top priority.

The evacuation of the 6,000-odd Americans should be a top priority. The evacuation of the 6,000-odd Americans should be a top priority.

Allen journey to Dr Kissinger

Tel Aviv, April 13

Mr Yigal Allon, the Foreign Minister of Israel, flew to Washington and the United States to meet Dr Henry Kissinger.

The Cabinet approved the journey at its weekly meeting in Jerusalem today but the Knesset, which is in recess, has been summoned for an extraordinary session tomorrow.

Cairo Cabinet resigns

Cairo, April 13.—Dr Abdul Aziz Hegazi, the Prime Minister, tonight submitted his Government's resignation to President Sadat to allow for a reshuffle. President Sadat will address the nation at 7 pm tomorrow.

that Congress need have no worry that the money will ever be spent—because the collapse would come well before that. But Congress is being asked to go through the motions of appropriation in the hope of holding potentially hostile South Vietnamese forces at bay.

The only justification offered for this cynicism is desperation based on the assumption that disaster in Saigon could be only hours away. Matters were hardly helped when a report leaked out from senior staff members of the Senate foreign relations committee, stationed in Saigon, that it was already considered too late to carry out the proposed evacuation.

One apparent effect of the success of the Marines' operation at Phnom Penh has been to still, for the moment, quibbling about whether the President possesses the legal authority to act in this way to protect American lives. Nowhere—not in the Constitution and not in the War Powers Act—is he given this power explicitly.

According to Administration sources the President presented tomorrow his proposed Bill requesting Congress to aid, assist and carry out humanitarian evacuation if ordered by the President.

All indications are that Congress may grant some authority, but for a limited period; it may possibly exclude the Vietnamese altogether. Some House resolutions circulating over the weekend called for Americans to be brought out in non-military transports only.

Senator Javits said today that the President would have to get prior authorization for any major operation; and he asserted that at present the President had no authority to bring out Vietnamese.

Conservatives in Japan take lead in elections

Tokyo, April 13.—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had a clear lead today as first results were counted in the nationwide local elections.

Governors backed by the party had already won seven of the 17 prefectures at stake.

The elections were seen here as the first important test for the party since its victory in the general election last December, and as a possible pointer to the general election results later this year. All results are expected to be known by tomorrow afternoon. Counting starts tomorrow in Tokyo and Osaka, where fierce campaigns were fought between the conservative Liberal Democrats and left-wing groups.—Reuters.

Protest over Sikkim

Hong Kong, April 13.—China delivered an angry verbal protest to India today for its "annexation" of the Himalayan mountain kingdom of Sikkim and the overthrow of that country's king.

Morale of Thieu troops gets a boost

From Peter Hazelhurst

An Loi, April 13

After retreating and abandoning large tracts of territory to the communists in recent weeks, the morale of South Vietnam's Army was given a decided boost this weekend. Government troops claimed they had inflicted heavy losses on North Vietnamese forces who attempted to capture two strategic areas around Saigon.

In Xuan Loc, 37 miles north-east of Saigon, the commander of South Vietnam's eighth division told journalists today that his troops had repulsed and badly mauled one of the two North Vietnamese regiments which made six suicidal attempts to capture the town during the past five days.

Thirty miles south-west of Saigon in an area west of the road 485 North Vietnam, the site of a communist regimental headquarters which was captured earlier this morning, officers pointed triumphantly to a pile of bodies of North Vietnamese troops and said Government forces had smashed an attempt to block Route 4, the vital road linking Saigon and the rice producing delta.

They said that in three days of bitter fighting in an area west of the road 485 North Vietnam, had been killed and 30 captured while Government casualties were low: 37 killed and 90 wounded.

According to journalists who were flown into the besieged city of Xuan Loc by helicopter, the town is now under the control of Government forces. Hundreds of bodies of North Vietnamese, civilians and animals, killed before the communists were repulsed, are lying in the city streets. Shells continued to be fired into the city while the South Vietnamese pumped thousands of rounds into communist positions around Xuan Loc.

Communist gunners have fired more than 6,000 rounds of heavy artillery shell of all types into the city during the past four days and Xuan Loc resembles a bombed out German city at the end of the Second World War.

All of the 60,000 residents have fled. Hundreds of refugees are camping in a plantation on the outskirts near a helicopter site.

The encircled city is being shelled by the communists. The city is being shelled by the communists.



A South Vietnamese refugee boy eating his first hot food for days on arrival at the southern port of Vung Tau.

control of President Thieu's government.

For four days a North Vietnamese regiment has been attempting to push eastwards and occupy a section of the road near the town of Ben Thanh.

Early this morning the regiment's headquarters at An Loi, a village about four miles west of Ben Thanh, was overrun by Government troops. As the North Vietnamese troops were marching through paddies and coconut groves, they were ambushed by South Vietnamese troops who were apparently killed in artillery strikes yesterday.

At An Loi officers point to the bodies of another seven men killed during the past four days but we have not had time to bury these yet," a captain says.

Hanoi, April 13.—American citizens could be easily evacuated from South Vietnam, without the need of a passport, and deployment of Marines and helicopters as "protective cover," the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry declared today.

Agency France-Press.

Chad's first President ruled for fifteen years of internal fighting and bloodshed Tightrope walk to death in the palace

Ndjamena, Chad, April 13.—Sikou, gaining its independence from France in 1960, Chad, a landlocked half desert country in Central Africa, had been ruled by Ngarta Tombalbaye. His assassination today marks the end of a reign of internal fighting and bloodshed.

In his request France sent a military force to Chad in 1968, the request being granted personally by President de Gaulle.

President Tombalbaye governed this poor country of four million people with a tightrope walk. Traditionally relations are uneasy between the proud nomads of the north, a mixture of Arab, Berber and Negro, and the more settled people of the south.

In what was termed Chad's "trial of the century" last February, 32 people were charged with plotting to overthrow the Government. A major charge alleged that the chief accused, Mr Kalmouma Guemba, former head of the ruling Progressive Party, plotted the eyes of a place southwest of the capital, President Tombalbaye and buried it alive. She was sentenced to seven years' hard labour.

Seeking to erase the memories of the French colonial past, Tombalbaye renounced his first name, Francois in favour of the tribal name Ngarta, which means chief. He gave the capital, Fort Lamy, the name of Ndjamena—which means "we have overcome"—and changed all French street names except Charles de Gaulle Avenue.

The most basic aspect of this campaign for African authenticity was his insistence that all Government officials, civil servants and ranking military officers of his own tribe, the Sara Madjingaye, undergo the manhood initiation ceremony of pondoo.

Not much is known of the rite, believed to include oaths of secrecy and loyalty taken only on pain of death. But a Frenchman who underwent pondoo and wrote a book about it recounted how he was led naked to a jungle camp by a symbolic mother and father, washed in a river and dressed in a cloak of leaves.

The ceremonies included frequent drinking of foul concoctions to induce vomiting, a form of baptism using blood of a tongue ripped from a live chicken, threats of death and such trials of

strength as fasting or crawling through a termite's nest. The face of the initiate is also scarred.

President Tombalbaye, who was educated by American Baptists, himself tried to have his own tribal scars removed by plastic surgery in Paris soon after he took power.

After the 1971 coup attempt, he broke off relations with Libya, which he accused of supplying arms to the Chad rebels.

In his early years he was a school teacher, and Mr Tombalbaye entered politics at 28, becoming a founder of the Chad Progress Party, a local branch of the widespread African Democratic Rally established by the present President of the Ivory Coast, Mr Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

He worked his way up to the top of the trade union movement and in 1952 was elected a member of the territorial parliamentary assembly. By 1959 he had succeeded in ousting Mr Gabriel Lisette from the jobs of Prime Minister and head of the Chad Progress Party. He became President, retaining the Premiership, in 1960, and was re-elected President in 1969, after skillfully taking advantage of hostility to Mr Lisette prevalent among the Muslim tribes in the north of the country.—Reuters.

Secret message from Mr Dubcek shows that his 1968 hopes live on

By a Special Correspondent

A letter written last year by Alexander Dubcek, Czechoslovak party leader during the "Prague Spring" of 1968, is now circulating in the West. It was smuggled out by the Czechoslovak Socialist opposition, which still hopes it will be published in the western communist press.

The Italian Communists, who have close links with the circles around Mr Dubcek, must have seen a copy but so far they have not published it. Meanwhile, it is appearing in non-communist publications around the world. Parts appeared in *The Observer* yesterday.

The letter is dated October 28, 1974, and is addressed to the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly. It is an important document because it is Mr Dubcek's first detailed attack on the present regime in Czechoslovakia since he was deposed six years ago, eight months after the invasion of his country by forces of the Warsaw Pact.

It shows that he has abandoned neither the ideas which guided him in 1968 nor his belief in the influence of events today. It is almost an active politician's letter seeking not only to justify his own record but to put the country back on the right path.

He remains deeply pro-Soviet and accuses Dr Husak's regime of provoking anti-Sovietism among the Czechoslovak people.

The letter comes at a time when economic difficulties have been increasing in Czechoslovakia. Working morale is very low and there are signs of growing concern in the press. There have been

shortages and unreported strikes.

Outside factors, such as the price of raw materials, are partly to blame, but moderates in the apparatus believe that the situation could be improved by readmitting to active life the many members of the technical intelligentsia who were dismissed for political reasons. Some of Mr Dubcek's remarks therefore fall upon fertile ground.

The timing of the letter is also related to preparations for the conference of European Communist Parties due in East Berlin later this year. Although Czechoslovakia is unlikely to be discussed by name it remains a live issue as a measure of how much diversity can be tolerated within the communist movement.

Mr Dubcek, in his letter, suggests that the conference should pass a resolution saying that the solution of internal problems in a party should be the exclusive concern of the party itself.

In the first part of the letter he describes his present life under very close surveillance as an inspector in the Ministry of Forests in Bratislava. He explains how cars follow him all the time and how low him the most ordinary human contacts are accorded elaborate political significance by those who watch him.

In the second part he says that the present leadership has sharpened the land transfer of power to the majority now.

He said it was political folly for the Rhodanian Government to arrest black nationalists for offences under the Law and Order Maintenance Act. He believed that 18 people had been arrested recently, all former members of the African National Congress.

Dr Sithole said the arrests violated the Lusaka agreement and unless the 18 people were released, the ANC would not hold talks with the Government. If they were not agreed it would mean that the Government was not interested in talks and détente.

Mr Wilson was a Government land development officer. It is believed that he was abducted from a hut in the tribal trust area last Wednesday. It is thought that the guerrillas fled in the direction of Kazinga en route to Botswana.

Twenty white civilians have now been murdered since the border war flared up again in December 1972. Most attacks on civilians have been in the north and north-east of the country where the banned Zulu organization operates. The north-west is covered by the less active Zulu organization.

One theory held in Salisbury is that the killings may have been carried out by Zulu people anxious to discredit Zulu whose former leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, has been singularly quiet since he was released from detention last December.

Dr Edson Sithole, publicity secretary of the African National Congress, said at the weekend that the conclusions reached by the foreign ministers who attended the conference of the Organization of African Unity in Dar es Salaam last week, reflected their views on the demand of the ANC that there must be majority rule now in Rhodesia. The Rhodesian constitutional conference must be aimed at achieving the transfer of power to the majority now.

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British referee of black-white game attacked

Johannesburg, April 13.—Mr Jack Taylor, the British World Cup referee, was attacked by a white team last night in which a white team played against a black team.

A spokesman said a white policeman. Some South African sports officials commented afterwards that the referee was "biased" and that the game was "rigged" in favour of the white team.

£100,000 jewelry theft

Tokyo, April 13.—Expensive imported products, including diamonds and watches, valued at about 70 million yen (about £100,000) were stolen from a jewelry shop in the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, police said today.—Agency France-Press.

King of Lesotho leaves and may plan to abdicate

From Our Correspondent

Cape Town, April 13

King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho flew to London last night, giving rise to speculation that he may be preparing to abdicate.

An announcement from the royal palace in Maseru said that the 36-year-old monarch had decided to resume his studies in political economics and political theory at Oxford University.

It denied that his departure was connected with a poisoning incident two weeks ago, which some believe was an attack on the king's life. Five men died and four others were admitted to hospital after they drank poisoned sherry at the king's country palace.

The authority has not met since the Uganda coup in January, 1971 because President Nyerere refuses to sit with General Amin, whose actions in ousting former President Milton Obote he has consistently criticized.

The general's action appears bound to create a new crisis for the community, which has been undergoing serious strains, partly from the animosity between Uganda and Tanzania and partly from economic difficulties. Last week General Amin

Guerrillas kill three Rhodesian civilians

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, April 13

Three white civilians have been murdered by guerrillas in north-west Rhodesia in the Zambezi valley area.

Mr Peter Parnell, aged 42, and Mr Michael Lodge, aged 30, were ambushed in their car and shot dead after leaving a road construction camp early on Monday.

Mr Allan Wilson, aged 62, was discovered in the bush in the Wankie tribal trust area. His bloodstained car was found abandoned about 35 miles away. It was apparent that he had been beaten to death.

Mr Wilson was a Government land development officer. It is believed that he was abducted from a hut in the tribal trust area last Wednesday. It is thought that the guerrillas fled in the direction of Kazinga en route to Botswana.

Twenty white civilians have now been murdered since the border war flared up again in December 1972. Most attacks on civilians have been in the north and north-east of the country where the banned Zulu organization operates. The north-west is covered by the less active Zulu organization.

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WHAT'S A PAIR OF EYES WORTH?

Think about it. Then think about Britain's blind people, all 120,000 of them. We're doing a lot for them now, but with your help, through legacies and donations, we could do a great deal more.

At the moment, we have rehabilitation centres for newly blind people, holiday homes, homes for the elderly, Sunshine Nurseries and Schools for blind children, Braille literature and music, a Talking Book service and training and employment schemes. We're doing all we can to prevent blindness too—by spending thousands of pounds each year on research. This is why your legacies and donations can play such an important part in our work.

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221 GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON W1N 6AA

Under the Finance Act 1973, bequests to charities up to a total of £100,000 are exempt from Capital Transfer Tax. Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Corporate earnings' impact on pensions

Sharp reminder that corporate profits and investment returns have a direct bearing on pension benefits was given by the head of the nation's largest pension fund group.

Mr Ken Howells, managing director of the Legal & General Pension Fund, said: "Nothing brings more clearly to the fore the fact that pension benefits are not a free lunch. They are a reflection of the company's performance. If the company's profits are high, the pension fund will be able to pay out more. If the company's profits are low, the pension fund will be able to pay out less."

Mr Howells said that the pension fund industry was facing a difficult time. He said that the industry was facing a shortage of funds and that the industry was facing a shortage of funds.

Production cutbacks to press Hitachi outcome

On April 13—Net profits for Hitachi, Japan's largest electronics company, for the six months to March 31, are likely to be about 8,300 million yen (11.85 million pounds).

The company's earnings are expected to be about 8,300 million yen (11.85 million pounds) for the six months to March 31, compared with 10,000 million yen (13.7 million pounds) for the same period last year.

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List of fixed interest stocks

Stock	Price	Yield	Dividend
British Petroleum	100	10.5	10.5
Shell	100	10.5	10.5
Esso	100	10.5	10.5
British Gas	100	10.5	10.5
British Telecom	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	10.5%
Hoare & Co	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
London Bank	10.5%
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Company	Price	Yield	Dividend
British Petroleum	100	10.5	10.5
Shell	100	10.5	10.5
Esso	100	10.5	10.5
British Gas	100	10.5	10.5
British Telecom	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5	10.5
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Petrocon Group Limited			
	6 Months Ended 28th February 1975	6 Months Ended 28th February 1974	Year Ended 31st August 1974
Turnover	4,577.4	2,540.8	6,306.1
Profit before Tax	616.2	235.0	775.2
Taxation	320.4	122.2	429.7
Profit after Tax	295.8	112.8	345.5
Dividend	42.6	37.5	111.1

Your Year ending 31st August 1975, will be satisfactory.

PETER G. P. HODGSON, Chairman.

PETROCON GROUP LIMITED
Petrocon House, The Square, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1DZ

Strong first quarter from Kaiser

Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation reports first quarter earnings of \$37.48m (\$1.92 a share) compared with \$36.5m (\$0.82 a share).

The company's earnings are expected to be about \$37.48m (\$1.92 a share) for the first quarter of 1975, compared with \$36.5m (\$0.82 a share) for the same period last year.

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Renegotiation keynote in tanker charters

Tanker owners' fears of renegotiated or cancelled charter parties mounted last week as the freight market was rife with reports of oil companies and charterers trying to cut their commitments.

The renegotiation of charter parties has been a major problem for tanker owners. The renegotiation of charter parties has been a major problem for tanker owners.

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Freight report

Following its strong rally last year, pre-tax profits up from £1.5m to £17.4m after an opening setback, Gibbons Dudley industrial group sees the long-term future of the company as "undoubtedly encouraging".

The group's earnings are expected to be about £17.4m for the first quarter of 1975, compared with £1.5m for the same period last year.

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RTZ's final today with Vickers' on Thursday

The brooding shadow of the Budget will probably predominate over all other influences on stock market sentiment, at least until after tomorrow. Even so, the line-up of dividend and profit statements is such that there could be decisive here and there in moving individual shares or sections.

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Mr. Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, whose final figures are expected on Thursday.

As a curtain-raiser two household names take the stage today—Glaxo (interim) and Vickers (final), together with Rio Tinto-Zinc's full-year results. The week's major institutional representative is Phoenix Assurance (final Wednesday). At the head of Thursday's parade are interim reports by Vickers, Cadbury-Schweppes, and Dickinson-Robinson. Details: TODAY, Interim—Glaxo, Sheaf Shipping, and Sanderson Murray and Glaxo. Final—Vickers, Burmah, Cadbury-Schweppes, and Dickinson-Robinson. TOMORROW, Interim—Garnier, Scottair and Zenith Carburant. WEDNESDAY, Interim—Bank and Commercial Holdings, P. Brotherhood, Howard and Wyndham and Kalamazoo. Final—Carpis Internat.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Unit Trust	Price	Change
British Petroleum	100	10.5
Shell	100	10.5
Esso	100	10.5
British Gas	100	10.5
British Telecom	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5
British Airways	100	10.5

TURNER MANUFACTURING CO. LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar with effect from 8th April, 1975. All correspondence and documents for registration regarding the Share Registers should in future be sent to—

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
The Causeway, Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD Code 0903)

P.J. HORRELL, F.C.A., Secretary.

Church

(International manufacturers and retailers of high grade footwear)

- Sales for the year to 31st December, 1974 increased from £11.08m. to £12.40m. and pre-tax profits were ahead at £1,197,111 against £1,141,346.
- A final dividend of 4.37p—the maximum permitted—makes a total of 5.37p for the year.
- Our main retail subsidiary, A. Jones & Sons, had another record year with sales of £5.5 million and profits well ahead.
- Exports to EEC countries increased by 30% and 29% respectively in the past two years, and we are confident of increased growth in this sphere if we remain in the Community.
- Results of our U.S. operations showed improvement and our Belgian company had another excellent year.
- It would be very foolish to forecast results for 1975. However, there is no doubt that there is a world market for high grade, well made mens' shoes and order books for both home and export markets are excellent.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary at St. James, Northampton.

INTERIM STATEMENT

NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED

Interim Financial Statement for the six months ended 31st March, 1975

(Audited) Year ended 30th September 1974	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st March 1975	(Unaudited) Six months ended 31st March 1974
706,552	Gross revenue	340,503
111,391	Less: Expenses and interest	56,072
595,261	Net revenue before taxation	284,431
225,167	Less: Taxation	112,418
370,094		172,013
124,220	Less: Interim Dividend	122,220
245,874	NET REVENUE RETAINED	50,793
11.5p per share	Dividend on Ordinary Shares payable 16th May, 1975	0.7p per share
58p c.d.	Ordinary Share at end of period	89p c.d.

*Represents total dividend for the year.

†Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share at end of period

*The Net Asset Value includes the full amount of the investment currency premium which at 31st March, 1975 was equivalent to 23p per Ordinary Share (31st March, 1974—11p per share). No provision has been made for any liability to tax on capital gains which may arise in the future on realisation of investments.

20 Grosvenor Hill · Berkeley Sq · London W1X 0HQ
Telephone 01-499 8644 · Telex 263796

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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